S. Hrg. 103-1062

NOMINATIONS HEARING OF JOSE AMADOR AND ROGER C. VIADERO

Y 4. AG 8/3: S. HRG. 103-1062

Nominations Hearing of Jose Amador...

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BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED THIRD CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

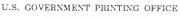
ON

THE NOMINATIONS HEARING FOR JOSE AMADOR, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR SCIENCE AND EDUCATION; AND ROGER C. VIADERO TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AUGUST 5, 1994

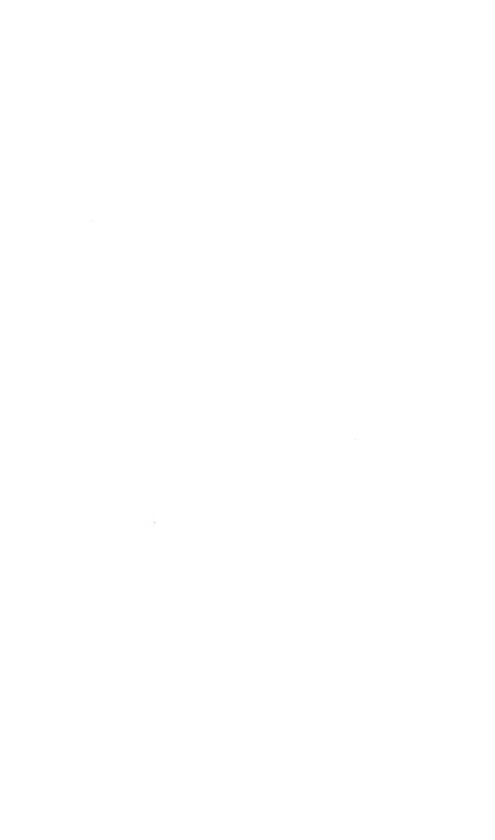
Printed for the use of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry





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NOMINATIONS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 1994

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 8:30 a.m., in room SD-332, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Thomas A. Daschle presiding.

Present or submitting a statement: Senators Daschle, Baucus,

Lugar, Craig, Boren, Helms, McConnell, and Harkin.

STATEMENT OF THOMAS A. DASCHLE, A U.S. SENATOR FROM SOUTH DAKOTA

Senator DASCHLE. The hearing will come to order.

The Chairman of the Agriculture Committee has asked me to preside today over the nomination of Jose Amador for the position of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Science and Education, and Roger C. Viadero for the position of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome both gentlemen here this morning. I am also pleased to welcome my former Chairman and good friend, someone who I have had the good fortune to work with for many years, Kika de la Garza, with us this morning, and Congressman Menendez of New Jersey, who will introduce Mr. Viadero.

At this time, I would ask Dr. Amador if he could rise to take the

oath.

Raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear that you will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you, God?

Dr. AMADOR, I do.

Senator DASCHLE. Please be seated.

Dr. Amador, first let me congratulate you on your nomination

and wish you well, as you begin your work here in Washington.
As you know, this is a position of enormous responsibility, particularly in light of the current effort to reorganize the Department of Agriculture and consolidate some of the agencies within the science and education department, and the upcoming debates on reauthorization of the Farm bill.

I am pleased to see that you come to this position with a great deal of career experience in agricultural research and extension, including 29 years of service in the land grant university and experiment station system. I am sure that you are well aware of our long-standing interest in Federally funded agricultural research programs. The challenges facing agriculture today are as serious as they have ever been, and the best scientific information is needed to face the challenges before us.

Decades ago, the traditional focus of agricultural research was to increase yield and productivity of major farm commodities. The research community recognized this need and responded to it with an overwhelming degree of success. An array of scientific advances in plant breeding, nutrient management and pest and weed control resulted in unprecedented yield increases over the last four dec-

Today, however, the challenges have changed. When facing current problems such as surplus commodities, low prices, the loss of family farms, environmental quality concerns and the lack of consumer confidence in the food supply, it is obvious that continued increases in yield alone will not provide the solutions we need.

Research must focus on increasing net farm income, not yield. We must develop new products and new markets for surplus farm commodities. We must design technologies and systems to help farmers make a good living off their land, without sacrificing environmental quality. We must develop ways to sustain our rural communities. We must do whatever is necessary to ensure that the food we eat is safe and healthy. We must follow through with training to make sure that the results of this research are actually made available to the end-users and put into practice.

The problems that the research community should address are many. However, the resources available to carry out agricultural research and training are dwindling. Overall support for agricultural programs is decreasing, and agricultural research is no exception. For this reason, it is imperative that we prioritize and target the available resources to those initiatives that will provide the greatest benefit to agricultural producers, rural citizens and our so-

Furthermore, we need to see a system of assessment and accountability that demonstrates to the citizens of this country that the money they spend on agricultural research programs is tangibly producing benefits. The department needs strong leadership and consensus building in science and education programs.

Once you are confirmed, I will look forward to working with you to ensure that agricultural research and education will effectively provide the knowledge and training necessary to meet the changing

needs of our society for decades to come.

As I indicated at the beginning, my dear friend and Colleague, the respected Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, is with us this morning, and I would ask him for his remarks at this time.

Welcome, Congressman de la Garza.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. KIKA DE LA GARZA, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I am indeed happy and honored to be here to introduce and to support the nomination of Dr. Jose Amador for the position of As-

sistant Secretary of Agriculture for Science and Education.

In listening to the criteria which you have set out for what the occupant of this position should be interested in fits exactly what Dr. Amador has been doing for the past 25 or more years, Mr. Chairman, and I am very proud. Usually, from my position as Chairman and you from this committee, we see the State experiment stations and the Federal establishment are usually at odds, for one reason or another.

Dr. Amador at Weslaco created a very viable, important working relationship with the ARS sector, the Federal sector there, and together they have done an excellent job. Their innovative research has focused on how to help the area. This station working through the A&M system, and to some degree with the ARS, even tamed the wild jalapeno that has brought more income to lower, smaller farmers.

Senator DASCHLE. Could you explain that? They tamed the wild

jalapeno?

Mr. DE LA GARZA. They now have mild jalapenos, instead of the hot-hot. This has brought income and it has made one of the companies in Texas that makes Picante with the jalapeno now can make the mild version for people like you and me.

[Laughter.]

They sweetened what is called a "1015 Texas sweet onion." They sweeten the onion that I ate in front of the Capitol like an apple. Dr. Amador also was very helpful in bringing back sugarcane to our area and that now brings in untold millions of dollars and higher than minimum wage jobs for over 500 or 600 of our former migrant workers that now have a stable place to work in the sugar industry.

Those are just three of the areas. I was fortunate to have been involved in the process of getting to this point, and I saw the many that were interviewed, the many that were considered. As it started narrowing down to the point that the final selection was Dr.

Amador, and I concur.

I commend the administration. I really was awed by the process, which they used, of elimination to arrive at one person. Not only is he my friend, I am very happy to admit, but he has done a tremendous job and I think that he can bring his expertise and his dedication to this position. I am sure that he will work with you and with us on behalf of the people of the United States.

I thank you very much for hearing me.

Senator Daschle. Thank you, Congressman de la Garza.

Mr. DE LA GARZA. I recommend him without any degree of qualification. I recommend him 100 percent.

Senator DASCHLE. Anybody who tames jalapenos and sweetens onions comes pretty highly recommended.

[The prepared statement of Congressman de la Garza follows:]

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE KIKA DE LA GARZA

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Members of the committee, I am very pleased and honored to appear before you today to introduce and urge your support for the nomination of Dr. Jose Amador to be Assistant Secretary for Science and Education at the Department of Agriculture.

I am here in part because Dr. Amador is a long-time friend and constituent of mine from the Lower Rio Grande Valley. However, I am also here to tell you that Dr. Amador is one of our most respected agricultural research leaders in the State

of Texas and indeed our Nation.

Dr. Amador will bring more than 25 years of professional experience in agricultural research and extension work to this very important post at the department. As director at the Texas A&M Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Weslaco, he has helped south Texas agriculture prosper and deal with a myriad of

challenges.

His accomplishments during his long career have been many and varied. For instance, he was instrumental in providing the research assistance necessary to help re-establish and develop a commercially successful sugar cane industry in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. He also has worked extensively in helping farmers cope with pest and disease problems in economical and environmentally-prudent ways. He has helped promote programs to promote research and development alternative uses of

agricultural products.

I believe Dr. Amador will be a professional asset to the Department of Agriculture. He will bring both management expertise and an abiding interest in policy

development and implementation to the department.

Mr. Chairman, I urge you to give Dr. Amador the opportunity to use his experience at the national level to help the administration—and us in Congress—formulate and implement our Nation's research and extension policies to benefit farmers, consumers and taxpayers for years to come.

Dr. Amador, if you have any opening remarks, we will take them at this time.

STATEMENT OF JOSE M. AMADOR, OF TEXAS, TO BE ASSIST-ANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR SCIENCE AND EDU-CATION

Dr. AMADOR. Mr. Chairman and Members of the committee, my

name is Jose Amador.

I am pleased and very, very proud to come before you today as the nominee to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Science and Education. I am delighted and very grateful to my good friend Kika, the Distinguished Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, as he introduced me to this committee.

I thank you, Kika, for those very kind remarks.

As you mentioned in your introduction, for nearly 30 years I have been a part of the Texas A&M University system. Beginning in 1965, with my newly earned Ph.D from LSU in agronomy, plant breeding and plant pathology—and I may add a note in my statement with a brand new wife, also—I came to South Texas to serve as plant pathologist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, serving the entire South Texas area until 1991.

I was responsible at that time for developing educational programs for county agents that would aid the farmers they serve in implementing comprehensive and effective plant disease control measures such as the use of disease resistant varieties, crop rotation, cultural practices, and the proper and effective way to use

protective fungicides.

During the same period, I developed and maintained an informal education program in plant disease control, which was my expertise, for homeowners, agricultural consultants, and the public in

general. I also devoted time to activities related to 4-H.

I have taken a special interest and have devoted much of my career to teaching about farm and pesticide safety to farm workers, especially those farm workers speaking only Spanish, of which we have many in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and also to the farmers that employ them, not only in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, but throughout South Texas, as well as in Mexico and Central America.

In 1991, I became the center director of the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Weslaco. As Mr. de la Garza said, this is a rather large complex with State and Federal agencies collocated on the same campus. In that position, I provided leadership to the scientists and educators working in research, extension, and education programs, encouraging cooperation and communication among the different State and Federal units at the center that will result in more effective programs. If I am confirmed to the position for which I have been nominated, I will strive to do likewise among the agencies in science and education, other USDA mission areas, other Federal agencies, the land grant system and Congress.

I am honored to be a part of Secretary Mike Espy's Team USDA, and I look forward to working closely with this committee, as we review and establish the needs for science and education for agri-

culture in the 21st Century.

Thank you, Sir, very much.

Senator DASCHLE. Thank you, Dr. Amador.

I should share with my Colleagues that Dr. Amador has informed me that this is not only his first time before a committee, it is his first time in Washington. I think that you have done quite well.

Let me ask the Ranking Member if he would have any comments he would like to make this morning. Senator LUGAR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I welcome the nominees this morning and look forward to hearing from you and to questioning you, and I suspect by the end of the hearing, wishing you well.

Dr. AMADOR. Thank you, Sir.

Senator LUGAR. I am especially pleased to have the Distinguished Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee with us. That is always a special privilege.

Senator DASCHLE. Senator Craig?

Senator CRAIG. Let me only echo the comments of my Ranking Member. I had the pleasure of meeting Jose several mornings ago at a breakfast sponsored by the Future Farmers of America. At that time he was involved in signing a memorandum between vocational agricultural education and the Department of Agriculture. I thought how unique, but how very appropriate that we recognize the importance of science and education in agriculture, not only from the practical application of science, but the educational side for our young people.

So Dr. Amador started out on a very excellent foot that morning with me. I am not sure I will have many more questions, but I am

anxious to hear from both of the gentlemen.

Thank you.

Senator DASCHLE. Senator Baucus?

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I, too, am very pleased to be here. Agriculture research is so important to all of us. It is clear that your position is one that we have to look at very closely and be sure that it is in tune with what we regard and the President regards—and certainly the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee regards—as an important role for agriculture.

I must say I think sometimes we, as Americans, tend to take for granted the tremendous strides and development in agriculture as

a consequence of agricultural research.

I have got a prepared statement that goes through and recounts the history of how much we have progressed and how much more we produce now on a per capita basis than we did years ago, the various revolutions, the mechanization revolution, the chemical

revolution, the green revolution in American agriculture.

It is my deep concern, frankly, that the administration is still not paying as much attention to agriculture research as it should, and I think it is because the OMB and other agencies just tend to forget how much research has made a difference to America. It is my very firm hope and belief, Dr. Amador, that you pick up frankly where to some degree recent efforts have left off, and that you are a very firm advocate in USDA and the Office of Management and

Budget to push and pursue research.

Now, this is your first time in Washington, and that to me means that you have a lot to learn about the ways of Washington, DC. I assume that at Texas A&M there is some political intrigue and in various other positions you have held, you have been involved in intrigue. However, this is a tough town, and if you are going to prevail, you have got to be very tough. You have got to be very wiley, very shrewd, very candid, and very aggressive, and I am sure you will have the help of the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and you will have the help of this committee.

I urge you, though, any time you are getting stonewalled or you are running up against problems that you think should be breached, I strongly urge that you let this committee know, because you will have our assistance. I have just one bit of advice, and that is to go full-speed ahead and be undeterred, because there will be many in this town who will in many, many ways, some transparent and some not transparent, attempt to deter you. I

strongly encourage you to proceed ever so vigorously.

Senator DASCHLE. Thank you, Senator Baucus.

To accommodate the schedules of our Colleagues from the House, I think I will ask our friend the Congressman from New Jersey, Congressman Menendez, if he would be willing to introduce his constituent, Roger Viadero, for the position of Inspector General. If you could do that at this time, we will then ask Mr. Viadero for his comments, and we will take questions following his presentation.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Distinguished Members of the committee.

I am both pleased and proud to introduce to you Mr. Roger Viadero and to support his nomination as Inspector General of the

U.S. Department of Agriculture.
As a Member of Congress of Hispanic dissent, I have been concerned about both the quantity and the quality of the participation of the Hispanic community within the executive branch. Today, hopefully with your approval, we will take a major step forward in both of these nominations.

Mr. Viadero has served with distinction for the past 15 years in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and for the past 21/2 years as Chief of the bureau's audit unit. Before joining the FBI, Mr. Viadero had a distinguished 10-year career with the New York City Police Department, and he has served honorably and admira-

bly in the U.S. Army Reserve since 1966.

He is uniquely qualified for this position, having gained experience not only in the FBI's audit unit, but also in the New York City Police Department's office of the chief inspector, and as Chief Warrant Officer in the Military Intelligence Corps. His work is widely respected, as evidenced by his extensive list of published works, including numerous instructional publications and videos on the subject of budgetry, management and auditing.

Mr. Viadero has been involved in numerous fraud investigations throughout his distinguished career, most recently including his work with the Mollen Commission on Police Corruption within the New York City Police Department. He has the knowledge, the intellect, the honesty, and the integrity needed of an Inspector Gen-

eral.

And it may be considered to ascribe so many positive qualities to an individual to be considered the usual gilding of the lily, but I assure the Members of the committee that, in Roger's case, it is simply the truth.

I have nothing but the highest regard for Mr. Viadero, and I commend his nomination to you without any reservation whatso-

Senator Daschle. I thank you very, very much, Congressman Menendez.

Mr. Viadero, if you would stand, please, and raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you, God? Mr. VIADERO. Yes, Sir, I do.

Senator Daschle. Please be seated.

STATEMENT OF ROGER C. VIADERO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Senator DASCHLE. Mr. Viadero, we will receive your opening statement at this time.

Mr. VIADERO. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the committee, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to testify before you today. I have provided biographical and other specific information to the committee which I will not attempt to reiterate here. I will briefly provide a summary of my qualifications for the position of Inspector General.

I have been a career law enforcement official since 1968, and have held increasingly responsible positions in both the New York

City Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I hold an MBA in managerial accounting, and possess a professional license as a certified public accountant in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Additionally, I have participated as both a student and an instructor in the finest law enforcement training available. In order to broaden the scope of my skills and knowledge as an investigative auditor, I regularly attend and teach continuing professional education courses.

Throughout my law enforcement career, I have been involved in a multitude of fraud investigations. Most recently, I have worked with the Mollen Commission on Police Corruption within the New York City Police Department. Additionally, I have served as a management consultant to several major city police departments, who utilize my expertise in budget restructuring and the development

of internal operating controls.

Currently, I am the Chief of the FBI's Audit Unit. In this position, I conduct my organization's activities in accordance with the standards established by the Comptroller General's Office, the Office of Management and Budget, and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Additionally, I am responsible for administrative and criminal investigations of employee misconduct, through the Department of Justice and the FBI's Office of Professional Responsibility. I also make management appraisals of field office operations, and issue recommendations for improvement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to respond to any

questions.

Senator Daschle. Thank you, Mr. Viadero.

As a committee, we are required to ask two questions, and I will ask both of you the same questions, and if you could respond as they are asked. The first question is, if you are confirmed by the Senate, will you faithfully execute the laws passed by Congress, regardless of any prior statements you have made or biases you may have held? Dr. Amador?

Dr. AMADOR. I sure will.

Senator DASCHLE. Mr. Viadero? Mr. VIADERO. Yes, Sir, I will.

Senator DASCHLE. The second question is, if your nomination is approved by the committee and the Senate, do you promise to respond to the requests to appear and testify before this committee or any other duly constituted committee of the Senate? Dr. Amador?

Dr. Amador. I do.

Senator DASCHLE. Mr. Viadero?

Mr. VIADERO. I do.

Senator DASCHLE. Very well.

Senator Harkin had a question for Dr. Amador relating to farm safety and health, and I would like to submit that for the record, and if you could respond in writing within 5 legislative days, it would be appreciated, Dr. Amador.

Dr. AMADOR. Yes.

Senator DASCHLE. Dr. Amador, funding of agricultural programs and research in particular is getting more scarce every year. With this in mind, it is essential that Federally funded research pro-

grams be prioritized. How do you propose that we prioritize re-

search funded by the department?

Dr. AMADOR. I think the first thing that we need to do is see what things in the Farm bill that are important to do research, and starting from there we can develop the guidelines of what we need in order to prioritize the research that we need.

There are going to be many different people and agencies making input into this process, and I think that out of the conversations that we have with all the groups and the input that they have, we

can come up with some very good ways to determine that.

I have always been a firm believer in talking to not only the people who give instructions of research that we have to do, but also the people that we serve, to make sure the work that we do is the work that we need, and somewhere along in the process, we usually come out pretty much on target.

Senator DASCHLE. That describes the inclusionary process, which I applaud. I think that is very important. If you were to give them guidance, as you participate in this prioritization, what would you

suggest? What would be your personal priorities?

Dr. AMADOR. Well, the issue that is in front of us right now is the one that Secretary Espy is saying we really need to look at, in which he is very much interested in: rural development and the plight of the families in the rural areas. We are also very concerned about food safety, and these are some things that we also have to take very much into consideration, given the priorities that we have. He is very concerned about sustainability and making sure that our industry remains not only viable, but it remains sustainable, not only for us but for future generations.

These are some of the key issues. I am pretty sure that we are aware of so many other issues that we have, that we need to take them into consideration. I think one of the most important one is health, to be sure that we produce the kind of food that not only sustains our body, but also prevents certain diseases from happen-

I happened to report, like the Chairman was talking, about the "1015 onions" that we in Weslaco have been working with and looking at some of the components that are in food naturally to prevent certain diseases. We have a very strong program and I would like

to see some of that being done here, too.

Senator DASCHLE. In recognition of the need to prioritize Federally funded research, the 1990 Farm bill established six purposes to be advanced by our Nation's research system. The report language states the intention of Congress that the Secretary establish guidelines to ensure that the department's research and extension activities actually advance the research purposes outlined in the bill.

It has been a source of immense frustration to me that, as of last October's hearing, there is no evidence that such guidelines for implementing the research purposes have yet been established. Will you expedite these guidelines and work out procedures to ensure that the research purposes outlined in the Farm bill are advanced in the priority setting process?

Dr. AMADOR. That I will. I am aware of the purposes that were established in the Farm bill, even though not being here and not being that familiar with the Farm bill, but I know this is a very high priority for this committee, and I have the intention to look into this to see what the different agencies are doing to meet these purposes and see what we can do to communicate back to you the

work being done.

Senator DASCHLE. Traditionally, the U.S. Research System has focused its efforts on increasing productivity and yield of major crops. Yet, the research purposes, outlined in the 1990 Farm bill, represent a shift away from this traditional focus, by emphasizing such things as expanding economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for farmers and rural citizens, enhancing the environment and natural resource base to foster a sustainable agricultural economy, enhancing human health and developing new crops and new uses for agricultural commodities. Do you envision a change in the focus of the department's research and extension activities under your leadership? If so, how do you plan to accomplish such a change?

Dr. AMADOR. Well, I think this is something that is very much needed. In relating back to my experiences in Weslaco, we are doing a lot of that, too. We are looking at new crops, we are looking at alternate crops, we are looking at different uses. Sometimes it is amazing how the same problems and the same concerns that we have in the small station at Weslaco are the same concerns here.

You know, here we just magnify it to a greater extent.

How I am going to go about it is going to take some doing and for me, learning the job. I have not worked with this Agency directly, although I have been associated with it for a long time. On the other hand, you can rest assured that I will do my best to comply with those concerns and the concerns of this committee.

Senator DASCHLE. I have a couple of other questions, but let me yield to our Ranking Member for questions that he might have at

this time.

Senator LUGAR. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Let me just note for the record, because we have discussed this as a committee on some occasions, that if these two nominees are confirmed today, at least according to my reckoning, only one confirmable position at USDA will remain unfilled, namely, the Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Inspection.

We had Mr. Branstool in that position for a period of time, but he resigned. I understand two other positions requiring confirmation will not be filled by the administration, pending the reorganization situation as it proceeds through the Senate and the House.

Mr. Amador, let me just ask what ideas do you have more specifically for utilizing State extension and research leadership in setting priorities for the programs you would oversee? And can you give examples from your own work in Texas of how you have utilized State extension and research leadership in your State to do that?

Dr. AMADOR. Again, I think that we need to maintain the lines of communication open with the different groups. The State universities, of course, have the organization and they have got people who represent them. They have got a way to have input into the system, and I plan to listen very candidly and openly to them, take their concerns into consideration and see what things we can do to-

gether, what are the things that we as the Federal entity are required to do by law and what are some of the things that the de-

partment can do from their point of view.

Senator LUGAR. Just following up on that, perhaps as you know, there is considerable discussion about the role of extension service, with some arguing that you should focus more on traditional users and rural communities, and others argue that you should have a broader base in order to maintain support in the future. Do you have views on that subject?

Dr. AMADOR. I think extension has many responsibilities, and having been there for 25 or 26 years, I have seen some of the changes and some of the concerns. The clients have changed for the extension service and the extension service has necessitated by the changes in demographics to go into different programs. However, I think that extension can very well address the needs of the different clientele. I think we need to maintain the kind of information flow that is needed for production of the crops that we need, and also need to go into the new areas in which Congress has concerns.

Another thing that I would like to add here, which has been a personal philosophy for me all the time: a lot of times we think about extension being a one-way delivery system. As an extension agent, I have always considered it to be a 2-way delivery system. I will take the information from the experiment station and the State colleges and the State university to the consumer and to the end-users, but I also need to listen to them to see what is the work that they want us to do, and that again comes to the priorities of the work of the extension service.

Senator LUGAR. Dr. Amador, let me just say that I bring greetings from Dr. Lechtenberg, who is Dean of Agriculture at Purdue University, and who has indicated to me that he has enjoyed asso-

ciation with you in professional meetings.

Dean Lechtenberg asked, as one academic to another, when considering science and education priorities, is it important that both relevance to the needs of users in society and quality of science be considered, and how do you propose to assure that both compo-

nents receive appropriate attention?

Dr. AMADOR. I think they have to be dealt with both on the planning and on the evaluation of the work that is being done. You have to include those two things as you plan your research and as you plan your extension and education program, but it has to also be an evaluation type of a process in which we know we have met those requirements. If you do those two things, I think we pretty much can address those needs.

Senator LUGAR. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Senator.

Senator DASCHLE. Thank you, Senator Lugar. (Recognizing Senators in the order of arrival.)

Senator Craig?

Senator CRAIG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. Amador, I will not be general. I want to cut to a very specific item. In the last several years, it has been very stylish around here to be a budget predator, that is to single out certain programs to be cut. These are programs the committee has worked with us on

to establish and that committee Members in general understand and believe are important. Somebody on the floor will bring up a special amendment to cut the program. Maybe, because of the type of program, the broad explanation is not really understood by the public. Senators are able to go at it and no Senator will stand up individually and support it.

The one I am talking about is the honey program. In the general sense, the public says to us why are you asking the taxpayers to support a honey program? Last year, although we kept the program on the books, we cut the money out from under it. We are

going to have to deal with that program in the near future.

I am concerned about it. The reason I am concerned about it is because in my other life I raised specialty crops. I know how critically important pollinization is to agriculture. The average public does not understand it. I would not expect them to. Yet, in the past, we here have somehow decided that the way we advance the cause of pollinization and productivity in agriculture is to support and subsidize honey. As a result of that approach, we have lost.

Now, in your State of Texas, one of the things that is happening is very real and very critical. While we hear about it on occasion, we have not really focused on it as a Nation. That is the

Africanization of the domesticated honey bee.

Now, I have watched it happen. I have a friend who is a specialist in the area, and we have watched it very closely over the years. It is alarming. It is alarming, because these bees are spreading throughout your State now. They are now in Arizona and are moving into California. The only way to solve the problem is to eliminate the bees. They are not a very friendly, happy bunch when you are around them. If they are Africanized they can cause real problems.

I am concerned not only with the Africanization problem but also with the ability of our country to meet our domestic honey needs. Imports are allowed from sources that disallow our domestic producers to compete in this markets. However, more importantly, in the whole field of pollinization, we are losing. We have problems with our leaf-cutter bees. We have all kinds of problems with general pollinization. Our chemical use, although rapidly improving, is one side of it and being able to do research into the diseases in our bee populations in this country is on the other side of it. We have just destroyed the bee economy by eliminating this honey program.

Now, I am not attempting to blind-side you. I want to use this as a specific example in your experience. I would like to work with you in looking at how we deal with pollinization in our country and research as it relates to handling our bee populations. We must do it in a much better way than we are now. We must work with our people in the private sector to resolve this problem. Do you have

any ideas?

Dr. AMADOR. Well, the honey bee program at Weslaco happens to be a very important one, and we have one of the few labs in the United States right now that is working on the honey bee industry. Senator CRAIG. Now you know why I asked you the question.

Dr. AMADOR. This is a function that is almost totally a Federal component, but it is sitting right there with us and we have had a person from the State also working in the honey bee lab. We

were the place where the honey bee that became Africanized made the entrance into the United States through the Lower Rio Grande Valley, so we are very much aware of the problem and we are very

much aware of the problems that the bee-keepers have.

As you say, people sometimes do not realize what the problems are. For example, one of the biggest problems that we have with the Africanized honey bee was not only what it does when it breeds with the domestic bee, but then it becomes a regulatory problem. Once it becomes Africanized, the bees are quarantined and you cannot take any bee outside of the area.

So what happened to our bee-keepers? Bee keepers cannot take bees from South Texas to the northern part of the United States, because they could not pass that quarantine, and that impacted

them tremendously.

This is the importance of research, you have to come in and do the work. In addition to the Africanization of the honey bee, we have the problem with the tracheal mite down in the Valley, which is a parasite of the honey bee that affects them very seriously. Again, the only way that we can solve the problem is research. I think, Senator, this is important and this is in what I could play a role. With my experience in extension and my experience in communication, we need to bring the stories out so that people will understand its importance.

It is easy to say this is a small industry, a number are going to get hurt. When you see and you talk to your neighbor who is a beekeeper, when you talk to your friends who are beekeepers and they tell you how these things are impacting them, then you hear

it from a different perspective.

Will I be successful in doing this, being able to accomplish obtaining funds for doing cases like this specifically? That I do not know, but I can tell you one thing, I will give it 110 percent in trying; to explain to people the need for each one of these projects.

Senator CRAIG. I would really enjoy working with you on this issue. I think we have got to focus not on subsidizing honey, but on advancing pollinization and the importance of it. To the average farmer out there, a crop that did not get appropriately or properly pollinated oftentimes can result in \$400- or \$500 or \$600-an-acre-

loss in production.

Now that is a very real problem in our country when that happens, and it is beginning to happen throughout especially California and the southwestern part of the United States, and especially areas like some in my State. So I would be exciting in working with you on it. I think we have got to try to turn this around and refocus it in a way that makes some sense not only to the industry, but also to the public that will fund some of that research.

Thank you.

Senator DASCHLE. Thank you, Senator Craig.

Senator Baucus?

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. Amador, why do you want this job?

Dr. AMADOR. I could give you a press release that was published in one of the local papers. If you would allow me to rephrase the way you asked the question in the way that the reporter asked me the question. He said why would a civil servant working for the

State of Texas with 29 years of service, who in 10 more months can retire from the Federal civil service retirement. I talked to Texas A&M yesterday, and they are going to allow an early out, so it could be even sooner than that I could retire.

Senator BAUCUS. There is still time.

Dr. AMADOR. Being an extension worker, even though a State worker, I was part of Federal civil service retirement, so it was even sweeter than that and I could have retired from the Federal Extension Service and start collecting my retirement and go to work full-time for the State.

Senator Baucus. That is even a better question.

Dr. AMADOR. That is even a better question. Then the other part of the question, he said not only that, but you have been here for a long time, everybody knows you, you are highly respected here, you have got a good family, everything is going your way, why

would you want to do this?

I will give you the same answer that I gave to the man: service. It is one of the things that, you want to pay back, not only to the industry that has been so great to me, which is agriculture, but also the country that adopted me. I just do not have any other answer for you.

Senator BAUCUS. I guess that is the answer we would all give,

too, if we were asked that question.

Do you have any goals, certain benchmarks you have set that by over a couple of years you would like to accomplish, A, B, and C,

or maybe set in place something else?

Dr. Amador. I did not want to come here with an agenda that I wanted to do this and I wanted to do that or be a spokesperson for any of the groups one way or the other. I have been here now for about 2 months as a special consultant to the department after President Clinton nominated me for the position. Some of the things that I have found or I have been able to gather in talking to people may give me a focus of some of the things that I would

If we are going to accomplish anything, we are going to have to accomplish as a group and as a team. It is going to take the Federal component and it is going to take the State component and it is going to take the local component, like in the case of the Extension Service, the county office that pays for the salaries of the county agents, and then it is going to take working with the Congress who passes the authorizing legislation and also passes the appropriations for us to do the work. We are going to have to work together with the industry that is dependent on our research and our education work in order to survive. We are going to have to work with everybody.

If you ask me one of the goals that I would like to do, whenever I leave the office, I would like to be remembered as a person who tried very, very hard to bring consensus of groups, to talk together, to express what their needs are. We know there are going to be a lot of differences. You know, you are talking about people wanting different things, and I know this is going to happen.

Senator BAUCUS. Would you strive for consensus to achieve a certain specified objective for your jurisdiction, a consensus in order to reach certain accomplishments?

Dr. AMADOR. That is correct, and some of the things could be the same things that we are talking about like the purposes for the research and the extension service. We have got to meet those requirements that the law says that we have to do. In talking to the people, it seems to me that we have got a lot of things in common and we might not be talking the same way. We need to be able to interpret some of the things to Congress that the department is doing, so that Congress knows where we are coming from. I think also that we need to take and understand better what Congress wants, so that we can do the work.

Senator BAUCUS. I would like to focus a little bit on your work in extension. The Congress has taken up reauthorization of the Clean Water Act. I chair the Environment and Public Works Committee jurisdiction over the Clean Water Act. We passed it out of

our committee and we may take it up on the floor this year.

But one of the major features of the Clean Water Act is addressing one of the remaining large sources of water pollution in our country, and that is nonpoint-source pollution, agricultural runoff, urban runoff, forest practice runoff, and so forth. I am wondering, as research needs change, and we have moved a little bit away from efficiency in crops and better yields, and all of that is very important, and we are now moving more into environmental research and health research and efforts to sustain our production.

What thoughts do you have as to how research efforts under your jurisdiction could address nonpoint-source runoff, nutrient loads that get into the water, surface water, groundwater or return flow questions? Do you see your folks as being able to address those and

coming up with some solutions working through extension?

Dr. AMADOR. I think they are trying.

Senator BAUCUS. It is critically important that they be developed again so there is greater consensus between the environmental community on the one hand and producers on the other, so that we can find common sense ways that are not excessively bureaucratic,

and so forth, in order to reduce nonpoint-source pollution.

Dr. AMADOR. One day, at the department, one of the meetings that I went to was a symposium that they had on the work that is being done on this very same issue, where they had people from the different States coming and present some of the programs that they are doing on water quality. To be honest with you, I was not aware of all the work that was being done. Each one of the States—Wisconsin I think was one of the leading ones—in extension, each one of the States has a program in place now to address this issue.

Of course, I do not know everything that needs to be done about all of those programs specifically for each one of the States, but I saw a lot of good information that was presented, and I will be happy to share with you and your staff some of the books they gave me, because I was really fascinated to see how much work is being done with extension in this area and the cooperation to address this very same issue that you are talking about, Senator.

One in particular really struck me, and we even have some references, on studies being done in Canada. They were doing a fantastic job, and I would be happy to bring some of those to Congress

and share them with your staff.

Senator BAUCUS. I would appreciate that.

Dr. AMADOR. I was so impressed that I told them to give me a

copy

Senator BAUCUS. One other point, and that is the administration's closure of 19 research stations, one of which does over half of the field research in biological control. As a pathologist, I would assume that you would be quite interested in addressing biological controls and developing and enhancing them. I am quite concerned,

because that operation is in Sidney, Montana.

In addition to that, while we are closing research stations in the United States, which cut back on efforts to develop this integrated pest management program, we are continuing the operation of offices overseas. I understand sometimes it is important to work with foreign countries, but it just seems a little strange to me that we would close, as I said, an office in Sidney, Montana, which conducts half of the field research in biological control of leafy spurge, and I would ask you to look at that in this next budget round and see if there is a way to—I would like your judgment on it. It just seems to me that it does not make sense to close efforts in the United States that are conducting most of the field research in biological control.

It is really important. I have talked to some of the plant pathologists at Montana State University and all the critters they are developing to attack various weeds, particularly leafy spurge, and I

think it is critical to continue that effort.

Dr. AMADOR. You want me to look into it?

Senator BAUCUS. I would like you to look into it. Brian Cavey, my agricultural assistant—sitting behind me—is a top person. He just informed me that his brother Scott married a lady named Suzanne, and your daughter Sylvia was in her wedding.

Dr. AMADOR. She was a bridesmaid.

[Laughter.]

They met each other at A&M, they were roommates, and we love Susie; she's just like a daughter to us. We could not go to the wedding, because I had to go to another wedding of the daughter of a roommate I had, so Sylvia went to that one. Somebody told me about that connection.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you.

Dr. AMADOR. By the way, Sylvia is going to make me a grand-father on September 2, the first one.

Senator DASCHLE. Congratulations. September 2, you've already

got the date down.

Dr. AMADOR. Well, the date for baby's birth is down, and she said, daddy, are you going to be here for that? I said, honey, you know how birthdays are, you never know when it is going to happen. She said, well, you are going to have to be here for the baptism, and I will be in San Antonio on that day.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you very much.

Senator DASCHLE. Thank you, Senator Baucus.

Dr. Amador, just a couple of additional questions relating to priorities. An interest that I have had for a long time has to do with the balance between applied and basic research. I know that my staff has had some good conversations with you about this. As we

look at scarce resources and that need for proper balance, how do you determine the priorities? How do you set the criteria, and really how are you going to define what is basic and what is applied research in the first place? Could you just elaborate a little bit for the record on that?

Dr. AMADOR. Yes, I would. This is a question that has gone around for a long, long time, what is basic and what is applied research. I have some things that I would be happy to share with your staff, Tom and Tracey, on things that I consider to be fairly basic research. But then, when you look at the application of the work, you realize that the work is really applied.

We may be doing some real basic work now that we are solving or controlling certain diseases of tomato, for example, without the use of pesticides, and some of this basic research has been featured

in some of the leading basic research magazines.

But I think that we need to keep in mind how is this work going to be used. Again, coming from the field, my feet have always been held to the fire by the producers there, because we believe that basic research is going to be the one that is going to keep you viable, that is going to keep you sustainable in the years to come in the future. But at the same time, we need to do the applied research that is needed to keep our farmers in business.

A farmer told me one time, he said, well, it does not do me any good to wait for your basic research 10 or 15 years from now, if I am already out of business. So I do have a very strong appreciation for what basic research is, but I also have a very, very strong ap-

preciation for what the applied research needs to be.

How the final approach is going to give you the answer that we want? I think, Mr. Chairman, if you allow me to, what I would like to do is to establish a closer working relationship with your staff, so we can discuss this kind of thing. Like I said, we have already invited them to go over to Beltsville on the 17th, and we are going to be looking at some of the work that they are doing there. I think by doing this kind of work, they can tell me what they consider to be right and consider to be relevant, and we can listen to the scientists and see what they consider to be right and consider to be wrong. Somewhere we need to find that answer.

I think that it might be a little early for me to sit here today and tell you exactly what the balance is going to be, because we do not know. We are being asked to do more and more applied research, and this is a very needed thing. But you are aware of the initiative that the President has just started out, that we need some fundamental research also. So somewhere we need some fundamental research also. So somewhere we are going to have to work together.

Again, I do not know that we have a straight single answer that I can give you for that. But I can tell you one thing, I am very

open-minded, and we are going to look at all of them.

Senator DASCHLE. One of the things that my subcommittee has spent some time on is trying to determine how one calculates effectiveness; how one determines that the money we are spending is actually accomplishing something. There is no set criteria in that regard, but obviously, as dollars become even more limited, it is all the more important for us to determine effectiveness and to be able to analyze results more effectively than we have in the past. Do

you have any thoughts on how you would assess effectiveness, how you would make some judgment as to whether research dollars are

being put to their best use?

Dr. AMADOR. I think we need to compare them, Mr. Chairman, with the objectives that we have for doing the research, and also for the end product that we get out of that research. We need to look both at what it is we wanted to do and then also what were the answers that we got out of the work and how these answers apply to the needs of the industry that we are trying to serve, not only the production agriculture industry, but all of the other people that we in the Department of Agriculture need to serve, which is the homeowner, the consumer, the urban people, the young people.

So somehow we need to devise that system. You ask me if I have a specific way of doing it. No, I do not, because this is a new job for me. But I can tell you one thing, that I will keep in mind what you are saying today, since we know that accountability, in talking to Tom and talking to Tracey, is very important to this committee. We are going to have to sit together and talk and see what kind of a process of accountability is satisfactory for both, and see how we can reach a system that we both feel comfortable with and be

sure we do it.

Senator DASCHLE. Very good.

Dr. Amador, I have no further questions. Let me ask Senator Lugar.

Senator LUGAR. I have no further questions. Senator Daschle. Thank you very much.

Let me now proceed with Mr. Viadero. Mr. Viadero, can you assure the committee that you will maintain the independence and integrity of the Office of Inspector General from the rest of the Department of Agriculture?

Mr. VIADERO. Unequivocally, Senator.

Senator DASCHLE. What steps are you going to take to guard the

office's independence and integrity?

Mr. VIADERO. All communications, before they come up to the Senate, will be filtered directly through my office. We will start by informing all of the regional people as a reminder that they are indeed independent and objective of function within the department. To that end, they will have all of the audit reports on the audit side prior to release, will be gone over with the client, giving the client ample opportunity to respond to the findings. However, all the findings will be well documented and cross-referenced in the audit work papers, and the investigations will be done in accordance with grand jury proceedings and criminal work.

Senator DASCHLE. If you are confirmed, what will be your top

priorities for investigations and audits?

Mr. VIADERO. So far as the audits are concerned, and not knowing specifically the audit and the audit parameters that the Office of Inspector General at Agriculture reviews, my primary concern will be compliance under the Chief Financial Officers Act, to be sure that everything in the department is as stated. I understand from reading material in the newspapers that they also delay 128 audits, which would be audits of individual counties and States, particularly under the various subsidy programs. I would like to

ensure that they are done with current standards and, again, that

the auditors are objective in their function.

So far as the investigations are concerned, again, I have not had the privilege of doing any internal work within the Department of Agriculture. I do, however, review what is going on criminally, because my present organization is the overseeing organization for most criminal investigations in government. It is well thought of throughout the investigative community. The Food Stamp Program and some of the disaster programs would need additional investigation. I mean those are the ones that seem to be in the news all of the time.

That is not to preclude procurement areas, which are more traditional to the Inspector General. I do not know how many investigations or how many audits are going on right now within the Office of Inspector General regarding procurement. I heard a figure the other day that Agriculture is involved in approximately \$2.5 to \$3

billion in procurement.

My thrust, as the Inspector General, so far as the reorganization is concerned, as an auditor—and I have had both hats as an auditor and an investigator—auditors tend to investigate things that they are comfortable auditing, and investigators tend to investigate things that they are comfortable investigating. I would hope this would change. I will assure you it will change, because we have to audit things that we are not comfortable with. Things that you are not comfortable with, we do not understand them thoroughly, so we will just give them a glimpse. We will now open up the books and go in and review these operations, and if they are of a criminal nature, they will be referred to the investigative staff for proper disposal.

Senator DASCHLE. I must say that one of my greatest concerns, the longer I am here, is the tremendous skepticism that I feel in the public with regard to the integrity of our agencies and our ability to deal with problems prior to the time they become crises. A large measure of that responsibility falls on your shoulders, and I would hope that, through your efforts and with your priorities, we could ensure that integrity is maintained and that we could restore

some of the trust that is so important in a democracy.

Let me ask Senator Lugar if he has any questions. Senator LUGAR. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Viadero, as we have learned in reading your biography, you have had extensive experience in the Federal Government in investigations, but almost no experience in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Now, this may be a plus factor in that you can approach things with no preconceived notions of who is what and where, and

so let the chips fall where they may.

On the other hand, you have perceived already many of these programs are exceedingly complex. They started as complex and they have become more so as we have continued to legislate and put additional regulations on top of them. Prior to your nomination, as I understand the targeting by the Office of Inspector General, was to put about 35 percent of effort or resources on the Food and Nutrition Service, 16 percent on Farmers Home, 14 percent on ASCS, 8 percent on Forest Service, and the rest scattered throughout USDA, which may or may not be your priorities.

But you have already mentioned Food Stamps and the disasters areas as programs to look at. Indeed, they are, and we have had hearings before this committee in which we learned of extensive fraud in the Food Stamp Program, not a new program, but one in which the committee has strived mightily to figure out whether electronic means is a proper way of going about reducing fraud by establishing an audit trail. This approach has run into problems with the banking regulators, who say the Food Stamp Program must conform to the normal consumer safeguards for Americans.

So there is quite a trail already here of difficulty. I am curious, as you assess this initially, how you plan to go about reducing

fraud and why you believe you might be more effective.

Mr. VIADERO. I think you keyed in on it initially, Senator. I do not know anybody over there, so I am going in fresh. I am going in with handling several major fraud investigations. When it comes to fraud, I have my own slogan, I say it is not the money, it is the money, and that is what drives the fraud. If you are dealing in agriculture, that will be something with crops, disaster loans, Food Stamps.

I dealt with arson-for-profit for many years for the FBI, where the primary goal was to defraud the insurance company. Only here the insurance company is the Department of Agriculture, and the every day person on the street who is picking up the bill for this operation. So, again, it is not the money, it is the money. I think any time where we are giving out money, particularly in insurance for disaster loans, it is ripe for fraud, absolutely ripe for fraud.

You want to get in there and you want to make sure that the people that need the moneys get the moneys. Yet, likewise, you are going to have a certain percentage of our population out there that are going to make a profit on it or will attempt to make a profit on it. It will be my job to reduce that possibility of getting as much money as they can from us.

Senator LUGAR. Obviously, we wish you well for the reasons the Chairman has already stated so eloquently. This committee has a high degree of idealism with regard to nutrition programs for hungry Americans, and likewise for people who, through acts of God and floods and what have you, have lost everything, and we have attempted to move to bring at least some basis for the restoration of their lives.

But all of these efforts are almost totally undermined annually by a legion of stories of people who in a wholesale way are attempting to defraud the Government and, thus, really undermine confidence that we can respond in such a way. There is great skepticism about even in the most humane programs, where the effects are good, and in some cases many people finally accept the fact that some good occurs and a lot of bad, and it is almost impossible to implement a program without having it riddled with waste, fraud, and abuse.

So, to say the least, we are deeply interested in your position and in your effectiveness and in your ideas as to amendments that we ought to offer on an ad hoc basis or as rapidly as possible to legislation on the books, so that you will be more effective. Because otherwise we are going to run I think into skepticism with our Colleagues in due course about our efforts, whether they were wellmeaning or not, that they lead to a situation of defrauding the Government of the United States. People are tired of it and want us to cut it out. So they want us to cut out the programs, in addition

to the fraud, as one way of taking care of both.

I really look forward to your reporting back to the committee after you have had some initial laps around the track and have tried to take a look at this, because clearly, in our search for solutions here, we are still groping. That is why your appointment in filling this position is so critically important.

Mr. VIADERO. Let me assure you, Senator, that I look forward to working closely with both the Senate and the House committees in trying to develop a plan or a mechanism we can put in place to re-

duce the propensity of people coming up and ripping us off.

Senator LUGAR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Senator DASCHLE, Thank you, Senator Lugar.

Senator DASCHLE. Thank you, Senator Lugar. In that regard, Mr. Viadero, let me just ask you one final question. Whistleblowers are often reluctant to come forward for a variety of reasons, including fear of reprisal, lack of confidentiality and even intimidation. In my view, whistleblowers play an extraordinarily important role, if handled properly. What do you intend to do to ensure the confidentiality of whistleblowers' complaints and prevent reprisal or intimidation?

Mr. VIADERO. First of all, the whistleblower's name or identity will never be released from my office under any circumstances, that is with the exception of the whistleblower himself, and that I think

is amply provided for within the Inspector General Act.

I would like to have them symbolized, if you would, given a number, and that will be a number, so their name will only appear once and it will be kept in a very confidential file, very similar to the way the FBI works an informant file. The information that they provide will be reviewed for its veracity, its authenticity, and we will move on it from that point, but absolutely in no way or sense will that person's identity be divulged.

Senator DASCHLE. Let me thank both of you for your comments and your presentations. Your answers I think have begun to develop the kind of record that we look for in making decisions of this

kind.

The Chairman has indicated that the confirmation meeting will take place at some point in the not too distant future. Let me ask you, do either of you have members of your family present? If so, would you care to introduce them?

would you care to introduce them?

Mr. VIADERO. Yes, I do. I would be honored to. My wife Thea, my daughter Emily on the left, my future daughter-in-law Patty Rothe,

and my son Roger, Jr.

Senator DASCHLE. Welcome to all of you.

The Chairman has also asked that we leave the record open until 5 o'clock today for Members to submit questions or statements. Senator Boren has indicated that he has a statement to be submitted for the record, which we will do at this time.

[The prepared statement of Senator Boren follows:]

STATEMENT OF SENATOR DAVID L. BOREN

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to submit for the record this statement on behalf of Mr. Roger C. Viadero who has been nominated to serve as Inspector General of the

United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Viadero is presently employed as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, where he serves as Chief of Audits. He currently resides in Stafford, Virginia with his wife Thea.

Mr. Viadero has 24-years background in law enforcement, with extensive experience in public corruption and major white-collar crime investigations. During the 10 years prior to joining the FBI, he was a member of the New York City Police Department, where he served as chief fiscal officer. He joined the FBI in 1979 where he served as a Special Agent in the New York division until 1983. Mr. Viadero distinguished himself as a supervisory Special Agent at the Management Science Unit at the FBI Academy for the following 8 years.

During this period, Mr. Viadero acted as Chief Internal Auditor and as Arson-for-Profit Coordinator. His services were publicly recognized, receiving Certificates of Appreciation from the city of Baltimore, the U.S. Congress, and from the New York

City Fire Department.

Mr. Viadero graduated from Pace University, New York, in 1978 with a Bachelor of Business Administration. He also gained a Master's degree in Business Administration from Lubin Graduate School of Business in 1983. An eloquent writer, Mr. Viadero was the Editor for the Law Enforcement Budgeting Advisory Group in 1990—1991 and has an impressive list of published articles to his credit.

In 1966, Mr. Viadero joined the U.S. Army Reserve where he served as a Chief

Warrant Officer. He remains a member of the Reserve.

In his current position as Chief of Audits at the FBI, Mr. Viadero serves as liaison to the Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General. As a result, he has become familiar with the varied responsibilities of the Office of the Inspector General. His position gives him administrative and operational responsibility for all financial reviews within the FBI. This includes scheduling, conducting and reporting audits to FBI executive management and other concerned organizations.

Additionally, he conducts investigations for the Office of Professional Responsibility and the Public Integrity Section at the Justice Department. In 1993 Mr. Viadero received the FBI Director's Incentive Award. This background has established Mr. Viadero as a well-respected individual in both professional and academic circles. Furthermore, his experience as an inner-city law enforcement officer has given him

particular insights on the operation of the Food Stamp Program.

I am familiar with Mr. Viadero through his work over the years as a consultant to the Oklahoma City police department. Those with whom he worked in that department have high regard for his professionalism. I believe Mr. Viadero will serve with distinction and dedication at the Department of Agriculture and I am pleased to support his nomination.

Senator Daschle. Let me again congratulate both of you on your nominations. We look forward to working with you.

With that, the hearing stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 9:37 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

SENATORS' QUESTIONS PRESENTED TO DR. JOSE AMADOR AND RESPONSES THERETO

Senator Leahy's Questions

Question 1. The principles of sustainable agriculture have gained growing acceptance over the past 5 years. The concepts of sustainability were incorporated into the research purposes enumerated in the 1990 Farm bill, and the administration reiterated its commitment to sustainable agriculture in its pesticide reform proposals.

The centerpiece of USDA's sustainable agriculture program is the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (SARE). But if sustainable agriculture is to become an integral part of USDA's research and extension programs, it must become an integral part of USDA's research and extension programs, it must become a guiding principle for all of the department's science and education programs.

I am concerned, however, by indications that the research and extension agencies continue to view sustainable agriculture merely as the province of the SARE program. The department's original reorganization plan for science and education programs, for example, only referred to sustainable agriculture as one component under the heading Natural Resources and Environment. Report language accompanying the Senate approved reorganization legislation, in contrast, encourages the Department to emphasize sustainable agriculture as a cross cutting mission for all science and education programs.

How will you ensure that sustainability becomes a guiding principle of USDA's science and education programs, as described in the 1990 Farm bill research pur-

poses?

Response. Sustainable agriculture is much more than just the SARE program, although SARE is a core program with both research and education/extension components. Across the science and education programs, as much as \$295 million is spent on research that may be associated with sustainable agriculture. SARE serves as the focus of these programs. In addition, efforts this past year among SARE staff have strengthened ties with agencies throughout USDA under the National Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Council (NSAAC). NSAAC can and will play a pivotal role in providing recommendations to all of USDA, and especially Science and Education, to help us strengthen and broaden sustainable agriculture research and education. Requests for proposals from the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) require applicants to address sustainability.

Question 2. I was pleased to learn that the regional coordinators and training projects for the Sustainable Agriculture Technology Development and Transfer Program have finally been selected. The need for training in sustainable agriculture is clear, and this program will provide a vehicle for getting sustainable agriculture results into the field as quickly as possible.

As you may be aware, there was considerable controversy and delay in getting this program up and running. Will you give me your commitment that there will be no further problems in having this program function as a companion to the SARE

program, and administered on a regional basis by the Administrative Councils, as envisioned in the 1990 Farm bill?

Response. Yes. I anticipate no further problems in implementing the Sustainable Agriculture Technology Development and Transfer Program. Extension and Research staffs have been meeting almost weekly to ensure that this program is an integral part of SARE. SARE Regional Coordinators have held meetings, established a communications network, and made adjustments in the administrative and technical committees to address this need. These actions, along with the development of a new SARE position for outreach and evaluation, jointly funded by Chapter 1 and Chapter 3 funds, should cement the program's working relationship. I will follow the maturing of this program very closely.

Question 3. The reorganization legislation passed by the Senate gives the Secretary authority to streamline and coordinate the program and planning staff staff for USDA's research and extension agencies. It is clear that reorganization would lead to greater efficiencies by reducing administrative duplication and ensuring better coordination of programs with overlapping missions.

For example, USDA research programs on water quality, integrated pest manage-

For example, USDA research programs on water quality, integrated pest management and sustainable agriculture clearly have common goals and objectives. Yet these programs remain largely distinct, and must even compete with one another

for limited funding.

What steps will you take to integrate these and other research and extension programs with overlapping missions?

Response. A well planned and coordinated program is required to achieve the maximum benefit from the merger of research and extension. Many of these programs have been closely coordinated in the past by employees working effectively together, but it is also very understandable when the assignment is large and resources are limited that real conflict can develop. My quick observation suggests that effective planning with the total involvement of all aspects of the program must occur. USDA's research and extension program must develop and appear as one integrated effort. Improved coordination can be achieved by focusing on sustainable agriculture as an umbrella program which encompasses several sub-programs, including water quality, IPM, SARE, etc., as one possibility. The existing Water Quality Initiative Office is an excellent example of how sustainable agriculture research and extension effort can be organized. I have considerable experience at bringing such activities together.

Question 4. While some of USDA's research and extension programs, such as the SARE program, are designed to foster partnerships between government, universities, growers and agribusinesses, many do not. Those programs that encourage broad participation in the priority setting process at the local and regional level provide an excellent model for "reinventing" USDA's science and education programs. Will this partnership theme play a central role in your efforts to reorganize the science and education programs?

How do you plan to increase direct farmer input in setting the department's re-

search agenda?

Response. Yes, the partnership theme will be important in reorganizing science and education programs. We need to be sure that we are obtaining grassroots input into research and education priorities. It will take some time and we will probably begin with some targeted programs, evaluate them, and then expand into other programs. I will leave it to our Agency's scientists and program leaders to identify the best mechanisms to use in seeking this input. SARE, rural development centers, the Regional Aquaculture Centers, and the regionalized IPM program all serve as good examples for us.

Question 5. The President's fiscal year 1995 budget included savings associated with the closure of 19 Agricultural Research Service research facilities. These facilities were identified as low priority locations after a 2-year USDA process, and the Senate overwhelmingly supported the administration's position in its debate of the fiscal year 1995 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

What plans do you have to continue USDA's review of ARS research facilities?

Response. When I reviewed the fiscal year 1995 budget with ARS, I was informed that between 1979 and 1991, ARS closed more than 30 locations and converted several others to worksites. The purpose of closing these locations was consolidation of the research effort. In fiscal year 1995, the closures were part of the budget process which required ARS to reduce its budget by \$18.7 million. Evaluating facilities is an ongoing and continuous process to ensure that scarce resources

are used on the most important problems facing American agriculture. I will continue that process.

Question 6. How will you establish priorities for reviewing facilities and making recommendations for closure and reinvestment?

Response. I will work with various congressional committees, with other members of the Executive Branch, and with user groups to identify research priorities. ARS needs facilities that meet today's standards for safety and health and are adaptable to differing kinds of research. I will work with ARS to identify facilities that meet these criteria. If certain facilities are no longer needed, we will recommend their closure, and use of saved resources to support other priority programs.

Question 7. There is a growing trend among national and State grower groups to use their own funds to support research and education efforts that directly affect them. It seems that these grower funded projects would be a good indicator of the research needs and priorities identified by the growers themselves.

Does the department make any attempt to monitor or analyze grower funded research projects? How does this information influence USDA's priority setting proc-

ess?

What opportunities are there for the department to better leverage grower contributions, through matching grant programs for example, to maximize shrinking Federal research funds?

Response. Many of the research, extension and education programs administered by the Science and Education (S&E) agencies already require matching support from nonFederal sources. For example, from fiscal years 1989 to 1993 the industry contribution for Federally-supported and nonFederally-supported research projects conducted at State Agriculture Experiment Stations (SAESs) increased by 31 percent to a current level of \$146 million.

S&E agencies meet regularly with many commodity, consumer and environmental groups to evaluate research, education and education priorities. Input is solicited from such groups interested in agricultural research when Requests for Proposals

are prepared for competitively awarded programs.

Since 1986, the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) has developed a strategic plan for the SAESs. This process is an important management tool for program development, priority setting, and budget initiatives within USDA, the Cooperative State Research Service, and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. A major revision is prepared every 4 years, with annual updates. The USDA and SAESs must take into account the needs of all users of agricultural research, including grower groups. ARS constantly updates its 6-Year Plan and the Extension Service, with the help of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) has a parallel strategic plan.

USDA, at the request of the Congressional Appropriations Committees, has also encouraged recipients of S&E program grants that do not require matching funds to develop matching funding from nonFederal sources. As Federal resources grow

scarcer, the need for matching funds increases.

Question 8. The department has been working for several months with EPA on a memorandum of agreement to expedite research and development of alternatives to critical pesticides of regulatory concern. I understand that this memorandum will

be signed soon.

Under this memorandum, USDA and EPA would identify pesticide uses that may pose unreasonable risks and that are considered critical uses by producers. USDA would then expedite research and development on safer alternatives to these uses, so that growers will continue to have adequate pest control options, and so that high risk pesticide uses can be removed from the market without unnecessary hardships to farmers.

Critical to the success of this effort will be USDA's ability to identify promising alternative technologies and reorient its research and development efforts to address these critical concerns. Clearly, if you are confirmed as Assistant Secretary for

Science and Education you will play a key role in this process.

Can I have your assurance that you will use all the resources at your disposal to support this memorandum?

Response. Yes. USDA has made a strong commitment to expedite research and development of pest control alternatives through its Integrated Pest Management Strategic Plan and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) being developed with EPA. The MOU will establish a cooperative working relationship between EPA and USDA to provide agricultural pest management that is conducted in the most environmentally sound manner possible, with sufficient pest management alternatives to reduce risks to human health and the environment, to reduce the incidence of

pest resistance, and to ensure economical agricultural production.

USDA agencies will identify and provide to EPA a list of crop/pest control combinations which are potentially viable, particularly where producers have only a limited number of effective alternatives. EPA will provide a list of pesticides where regulatory action could effect the availability or use of the pesticide. Also, EPA will afford priority review of the new alternatives that are developed to fill identified gaps, so that farmers are not left without tools needed to produce food and fiber.

I fully support these initiatives and as Assistant Secretary for Science and Education will work closely with our scientists, farmers, EPA and Congress to assure

that available resources are provided for this important task.

Senator Harkin's Questions

Question 1. Farm safety and health has been a high priority of mine for many years. We have all organization founded in Iowa and with its headquarters there named Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, which does a tremendous job in promoting farm safety, particularly for young people. The organizations now has members in 43 states and 40 chapters in 16 states, plus three chapters in Canada.

The Cooperative Extension Service has farm safety specialists and agents whose job it is to plan, develop, and implement farm safety educational programs. The Extension Service Farm Safety Program is extremely important in providing expertise and leadership to organizations like Farm Safety 4 Just Kids that work to promote

farm safety.

The president of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids has told me that in the past she has not felt the Assistant Secretary for Science and Education has been supportive of

the Extension Service Farm Safety Program.

Dr. Amador, what is your opinion of the importance of the Extension Service Farm Safety Program, and will you support this program if you are confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Science and Education?

Response. The USDA Extension Service farm safety program is very important and I will support this program, if confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Science and Education. Currently, the USDA Extension Service provides funds to support Cooperative Extension System farm safety education in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The USDA Extension Service Farm Safety funding does not cover the full cost of these programs. The State farm safety specialists work cooperatively with many organizations such as Farm Safety 4 Just Kids. Affirmation of the importance of this program by grass roots organizations like Farm Safety 4 Just Kids confirms that this program is truly serving our customers needs. A recent New York survey indicated that farmers give the Cooperative Extension Service the highest confidence rating in its ability and willingness to their needs for farm safety information over the Farm Bureau, Statewide Safety Council, local health services, and local hospitals.

The programs are developed by the State Extension Service staff to meet the State's most critical needs. These programs are targeted to reduce injury, illness and mortality rates of farmers/ranchers, seasonal and migrant agricultural workers, timber harvesters, and their families. I understand that lack of sufficient resources continues to limit the Farm Safety program efforts of the Cooperative Extension Service and I will be reviewing that program as we formulate the 1996 budget pro-

posals.

During my tenure at Texas A&M, even though farm safety was not a responsibility specifically assigned to me, I devoted considerable time to farm and pesticide safety programs, both on my own and working cooperatively with the EPA and the Texas Department of Agriculture. Many of these programs were specifically for Spanish-speaking farm workers, but also for the farmers that employed them. I also coached 4–H members with farm safety program demonstrations. My interest in this area will continue during my tenure at USDA.

Senator Daschle's Questions

Question 1. The administration has stated publicly its commitment to sustainable agriculture. What is your vision of sustainable agriculture, and how do you plan to carry out this commitment in your new position?

Response. Agriculture should be both environmentally and economically sustainable. To achieve sustainability will require understanding of this commitment by the leadership of the S&E agencies. I will supervise and regularly review the programs of these agencies with an eye toward gauging progress toward this goal.

Question 2. There are many organizations, including commodity groups, sustainable agriculture advocates, industry, consumers, and State extension and research leaders that would like to have insert into the consumers. leaders, that would like to have input into the priority-setting process of USDA Science and Education Agencies.

How do you propose to provide opportunities to utilize input from these sources?

Response. I know that many groups visit with Science and Education agency heads, and have visited with my predecessors, to contribute to priority setting. I welcome both group and individual commentary. This attitude ensures that priority setting is kept current. I plan to encourage customer conferences and coordination meetings to assure the best fit of programs to customer needs. I will make great use of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Users Advisory Board, the Agricultural Science and Technology Review Board, and the Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Science, in assuring coordinated and timely program implementation.

Question 3. One of the most promising approaches to improving the prosperity of the agricultural sector is the concept of developing new uses of agricultural commodities to expand the marketing opportunities for farm products. This approach also would involve processing the commodities in rural communities as a means of creating jobs. How would your administration encourage these initiatives?

Response. Expanding the market for agricultural products is vital for enhancing the prosperity of U.S. agriculture. But, we cannot depend solely on expansion of the global market for traditional food and feed products. New uses for traditional farm products, and even entirely new farm products, must play an important role in expanding demand for farm output. We see the Federal role as being a supporter of fundamental and applied research, a partner in development, and a catalyst in commercialization.

The administration would continue to develop new uses for agricultural products through a continuum of activities ranging from basic research to facilitating commercialization of new products. Many of the new uses for agricultural materials are viewed as environmentally friendly, that is, nontoxic and biodegradable, and do not directly release greenhouse gases which contribute to global warming. These "pluses" for agricultural crops tend to offset the frequently lower price of similar

products produced from petroleum and natural gas.

Having these products processed in rural America is a more challenging task. Fuel ethanol is an example requiring centralized processing, since we have the infrastructure for economical transportation of corn, and the economies of scale favor very large ethanol plants. Rural processing of materials is favored when the product is bulky and rather low-valued, since transportation costs become significant. Examples are straw and stover residuals from crops, which may be used in composite con-

struction materials.

Kenaf is an unusual crop for producing "tree-less" paper, for which local processing makes sense. Guayule rubber is another bulky product which could receive initial processing in local plants. (Guayule rubber is a domestic crop which could replace imported tropical rubber.) Intentional production of biomass for fuel could best be accomplished in facilities which are small and in rural locations. Local processing of new crops would be favored, since there would not be a preexisting infrastructure for their central processing. Examples of two new crops supported by CSRS research in the precommercial stage are lesquerella and vernonia.

We have the tools—the patents, CRADAs, research agreements, AARC—to stimulate the process, and it is happening in many states—in Minnesota, North Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, Iowa, Illinois and Utah—to name just a few.

We will continue to ensure that the Federal role as a catalyst for commercialization, specifically in rural environments, is a high priority of this administration.

Question 4. The decline in the number of family farms is one of the most serious problems facing this Nation's rural communities. How can agricultural research help to stop or reverse this trend?

Response. The decline in the number of family farms probably results more from institutional factors, laws and regulatory constraints than lack of appropriate research. Just the same, research has had its impact by developing technology that is capital intensive, makes the farmer dependent on purchased inputs, or encourages monocropping. Agricultural research that is scale neutral does not contribute

to increasing farm size, and research that leads to management schemes that are more dependent on management skills than on purchased input would favor smaller farms.

Much of the research in USDA is scale neutral; some of it can be used to support small farms specifically. However, the demand from the customer has generally

been slanted towards larger farm holdings.

Question 5. The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program has been successful in promoting research of relevance to family farmers working to develop and implement sustainable farming systems, and in involving farmers and other concerned citizens in research and program review procedures.

Do you see this program as a priority, and will you try to increase funding for

it?

What priority do you place on nonproduction oriented research, such as socio-economic research on alternative farming systems, alternative agricultural policies, marketing opportunities, and assessments of technologies or alternative research directions?

Response. I see the SARE program as a high priority, in the context of overall departmental emphasis on sustainable agriculture. Sustainable agriculture should be considered as a cross-cut program involving many different disciplines in the physical, biological, and social sciences. The SARE program could provide the focus for this cross-cut approach. I will consider the funding needs of SARE in the context

of USDA's overall goals and objectives in science and education.

I place a high priority on nonproduction oriented research. We must ensure that the department's programs in science and education benefit society as a whole. This requires that we have objective and substantive information on the economic value and market opportunities, environmental impacts, and effects on consumer health and safety of USDA's research and education programs. Economic and social research must be an important component of USDA's research programs in science and education.

Question 6. In the past, USDA has tended to view programs in sustainable agriculture, integrated pest management (IPM), and water quality as separate and distinct areas. However, it seems clear that water quality and IPM are major components of sustainable agriculture. Will you work to integrate these programs, and if so, how?

Response. Because of the statutory history and reporting requirements, water quality has tended to be viewed as independent. You are, of course, correct in observing that water quality and IPM are issues that are part and parcel of a sustainable agricultural system. As we continue to increase emphasis on total system evaluation, we expect to see better integration of such separate programs.

Question 7. The National Research Initiative (NRI) has taken some criticism for neglecting its mandates to support applied, mission-oriented research as well as basic research and emphasize research on sustainable agricultural systems.

How do you intend to address these concerns about the NRI?

Response. I plan to look at the total agricultural research portfolio to ensure that there is balance between fundamental and applied or mission-oriented research. We are privileged to have as Chief Scientist for the NRI a person with a strong background in both areas, who knows how to fit fundamental research to practical problems. Therefore, with careful coordination and program review I will address this challenge.

Question 8. How do you plan to link the research activities of USDA Science and Education agencies with the activities of other USDA agencies that require research; for examples, in such issues as food safety, human nutrition, and soil and water quality? What mechanisms will you set up to include the research needs of other agencies in the prioritization process of the research programs you will administer? Similarly, how do you plan to coordinate USDA research efforts with those of other departments?

Response. The department is achieving these objectives by establishing special task forces. For example, we have a Pathogen Reduction Task Force, an Integrated Pest Management Task Force, and the Human Nutrition Coordinating Committee. In each of these task forces or committees, the membership is composed of representatives from all relevant USDA agencies as well as the research agencies of the ARS, CSRS, and ERS. When the issue is sufficiently broad to require the participation of other departments, coordination is developed both formally and informally. In the Pathogen Reduction Task Force both FDA and CDC are represented,

whereas in the nutrition area collaborative relationships have been formalized with a memorandum of understanding between DHHS and USDA.

Question 9. Assuming that the USDA reorganization plan that passed the Senate prevails in conference, there will be a number of significant changes to the structure of Science and Education programs. A major change is that a single Program Planning and Budget staff will coordinate these functions for ARS and the combined CSRS/ES. How do you envision that this common planning staff will function? With this new coordinating structure, how do you plan to maintain the unique Federal/State partnership that currently exists among CSRS, the Extension Service, and Land-Grant Universities? At the same time, how will you ensure that Federal and partnership research programs are not duplicative?

Response. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research, Education and Economics (REE) along with the Administrators of the component agencies—ARS, CSRS/ES, ERS and NASS—will work together as the senior REE management team to carry out the coordination functions for program planning and budgeting and to ensure that Federal and partnership programs are not duplicative. The integration of CSRS and ES into a single agency, separate from ARS, will ensure that the partnership that now exists between USDA and the land grant universities will be uniquely maintained.

Senator Baucus' Questions

Question 1. Traditional agricultural research has been focused on increasing yields in order to increase farm income. In that effort, USDA and other American researchers have been remarkably successful. However, today the demands on agriculture now extend beyond simply increasing yields.

Today we ask our farmers to continue feeding us while improving our water supplies, using less chemicals, and while decreasing Federal spending on traditional farm programs and export programs. They need the technology to address these issues. It's up to USDA to develop that technology through research.

How will you establish a balance between the need for basic agriculture research and the need to address the new challenges facing agriculture today?

Response. I believe that in order to solve the problems of American agriculture, the main issue should be that both applied and developmental research, and the research and education activities emanating from these are focused and coordinated. These should be the priorities we need to emphasize. By working with our users to establish priorities, I will try to ensure that the Science and Education programs are focused on those priorities.

Question 2. In the 1995 Budget, the administration proposed the closure of 19 research stations operated by the Agricultural Research Service. That represents a 15-percent decrease in the facilities operated by the ARS. Ironically, several facilities in foreign locations were left in place while locations within our borders were recommended for closure.

It seems to me that it is inexcusable to leave foreign operations in place while making cutbacks at home. While I understand the need for cooperation with overseas countries to make progress in the integrated pest management (IPM) program, it seems that we should also keep in mind the local effect of decisions made in Washington.

One of this administration's stated goals is to increase our efforts in IPM until 75 percent of our agriculture land can be managed using IPM by the turn of the century. At the same time, the administration has recommended closure of ARS op-

erations working in the development of IPM technology.

I speak of course of a research operation in Sidney, Montana. Scientists at that location conduct over half of the field research in biological control in the country. To close that operation is to deal biological control a serious blow.

Soon after your confirmation, I imagine you will be involved in establishing the budget for 1996. How will you work to devote critical funding to research so that producers will have the technology to meet the challenges of the next century?

Response. Yes, I will be working with the Secretary and the Agency Administrators to establish budget priorities for fiscal year 96 if confirmed. It is my understanding that the overseas stations serve specific purposes that benefit mainly the interests of U.S. agriculture, such as the one in Montpellier, France. This station is used mainly to collect potential parasites and predators to be used in the biological control of U.S. pests. These biological agents are not found in the United States, thus their introduction into the United States could have a very positive impact in the need for reduced risk pesticides. I will want to ensure that the entire spectrum of research needs are addressing the continued viability of the agricultural system including production, sustainability, safety, human nutrition and economics.

Question 3. How will you work to utilize existing facilities and programs, rather than to start up new programs?

Response. With limited resources, the USDA programs cannot afford to be duplicated or not focused on priority issues. The research needs of our clients are varied and require many different types of research facilities and people to conduct the programs. In some cases, it will be necessary to initiate new programs to develop the science, technology and education needed to solve current and future problems.

Question 4. How will you make the tough decisions to keep a station like the Northern Plains Soil and Water Research Center in Sidney, Montana open?

Response. Before I recommend that any facility be closed, I will ensure that the science needs of our clients can be addressed at another location or that the cost/benefit of modernization of existing facilities will be in the best interest of American agriculture.

Question 5. One of the critical concerns for agricultural research, especially in an area of tight budgets, is that the research be relevant. There are a variety of groups and organizations which would like to provide input into the prioritization process of the Science and Education agencies of USDA.

How will you provide these valuable sources the opportunity to provide input into

the process?

Response. Ensuring that the USDA Research and Education agencies are focusing on the critical issues facing American agriculture is one of my highest priorities. There are several mechanisms in place that provide an opportunity for input into the priority process: i.e., congressionally authorized committees such as the Joint Council, Users Advisory Board, National Genetics Advisory Council and others. In addition, various commodity groups meet with the staffs and line managers of the agencies to discuss their research and education needs. I intend to have an "open door policy" and I will go out to meet with the user community so that I can listen and use their input to the priority setting process of this administration.

Senator Helms' Questions

Question 1. Dr. Amador, what kind of priority do you intend to place on continuing current research for other alternative uses for tobacco?

Response. Research on alternative tobacco uses may be a logical priority for university scientists and/or industry research and development groups, but has not been a high priority for ARS involvement. I will look at proposals submitted for such research and review them on their merits.

Question 2. Tobacco research has been successful in discovering product improvements for the tobacco leaf on all levels. What will you do as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Science and Education to continue to fund research on product improvement?

Response. We do not anticipate extensive future research in this area.

Question 3. Lately, several Members of Congress have asked that no funds be used under Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to continue tobacco research at Oxford, North Carolina, and Lexington, Kentucky. Do you support this ban, and if so, how do you intend to use the funds taken away from these facilities?

Response. I support the proposal by ARS to terminate lower priority programs and locations, resulting in a gross reduction of \$18.7 million. Savings from these reductions will be utilized to increase support on waste utilization, area-wide IPM systems, biodiversity of wetlands, pathogen reduction programs, alternatives to methyl bromide, and food composition labeling.

Question 4. Is it true that these funds will be used for other uses in ARS?

Response. Yes.

Question 5. If so, then why?

Response. Savings from research and location closures will be required to meet obligations to perform the high priority research activities outlined in the President's budget.

Question 6. If not, then why can't the States of North Carolina and Kentucky use the money that was originally appropriated for these ARS centers for other agriculture related uses?

Response. Savings from these closures will be reassigned based upon needs and opportunities associated with the high priority program areas I have previously outlined.

Question 7. If the administration and the department is so concerned about the effects of tobacco, then why do they want to discontinue the alternative research that has been occurring for years?

Response. It is my understanding that none of the research programs proposed for closure have been performing research on alternative uses for tobacco.

Question 8. Do you believe it is punitive to punish tobacco research by banning it?

Response. I have been told that the intention of the department's budget proposals is not to punish or ban tobacco research. The department, however, will eliminate the ARS tobacco research programs at Oxford, North Carolina, Lexington, Kentucky, and Beltsville, Maryland, in order to reallocate the resources to higher priority, nationally important research problems.

Question 9. Another critical issue, that is important to North Carolina and agricultural research—is the future of the Sweet Potato Industry research. As you may know, North Carolina is number one in production of the sweet potato—420-million-pounds-a-year, 60–80 million dollars a year in revenue which could be in jeopardy by the lack of a sweet potato entomologist in the area to support alternative methods of use for the sweet potato and insect control. The current entomology (sic), Dr. Mike Mullens, who has been stationed in Savannah, Georgia, has been told he will be transferred to Manhattan, Kansas.

Response. We appreciate the importance of sweet potatoes to the agricultural economy of North Carolina and other southeastern states. This commodity and others will have continued need for control of insect pests during production and we intend that this issue will have appropriate priority. Dr. Mike Mullens has, however, spent essentially all of his research career on the control of insects in stored grain. He has very little experience with sweet potato production research. We have just had a very informative discussion with the milling industry in which Dr. Mullen's research on insect control in warehouse packaging was highly praised and the urgent need for this unique research to continue was emphasized. Upon closure of the Savannah Laboratory, a major portion of the research program there will be transferred and continued at the U.S. Grain Marketing Laboratory at Manhattan, Kansas, where stored product insect and warehouse packaging research is carried out.

Question 10. Why is the Department of Agriculture sending the only qualified and experienced researcher in sweet potatoes clear across the country?

Response. In the administration's fiscal year 1995 budget proposal, we informed Congress that upon closure of the ARS Laboratory in Savannah, Georgia, we would transfer the major portion of the stored product insect control program conducted there, including the packaging research conducted by Dr. Mullens, to the U.S. Grain Marketing Laboratory in Manhattan, Kansas, where similar research serving the entire Nation is carried out. Dr. Mullen has limited experience with sweet potato production research, but other expertise with this commodity remains available at the U.S. Vegetable Laboratory in Charleston, South Carolina.

Question 11. What will you do to assure that sweet potato production and research will be conducted in the area that it most benefits?

Response. We are fully committed to ensure that within the resources available in fiscal year 1995, research on insect control in sweet potato production will be conducted in the southeastern region.

Senator McConnell's Questions

Question 1. As you know the agricultural research unit located at the University of Kentucky was one of the 19 units proposed to be closed. Tobacco, in general, continues to be a target from all sides. With this in mind, it is even more imperative that research be conducted to find alternative crops in order to help in the transition from tobacco that Kentucky may face. I am asking for your help and expertise in working with me and representatives from the University of Kentucky to develop a new research program that will help develop and improve Kentucky's agricultural base. With this in mind, what thoughts do you have on the type of research the

University of Kentucky should be working on, and will you commit to working with us to help the producers of Kentucky through this difficult time?

Response. Secretary Espy has a strong commitment to rural development and I share that commitment. New crops research is not without risk, for not all new crops prove successful. Nevertheless, I believe there is great promise to be offered by developing new crops and the support industries which will be associated with both their production and processing. Also, we must not forget that we now have powerful genetic tools at our disposal which, I believe, will enable us to increase the value of some of our standard crop species by designing them for very specific feed, food, and industrial uses. Again, rural development may be a valuable spin-off from this type of research.

Question 2. Do you agree with the current funding priorities for Science and Education? If so, why?

Response. Given the brief time I have been here, I have not had the opportunity to give in-depth consideration to the funding priorities established by the department. However, I consider research to be very important to maintain our agricultural leadership in the world, and education important as well to provide the means of transferring and applying the technology developed through the scientific process. From what I have ascertained to this point, it is clear to me a considered, sincere effort has been made to establish program funding priorities to best serve the agricultural community and the general public in this time of constrained resources. I will be giving the issue my fullest attention as we formulate the 1966 budget proposals.

Question 3. What would you like most to accomplish in your new position?

Response. I suppose as one contemplates accepting a position such as I have, it would be difficult at this very early stage to sort through all issues and conclude which one that would serve as the one accomplishment. However, I have given this item much thought, and I would like to think one of my legacies would be a strengthening and very real enhancement of the coordination of the department's research and education programs, including the agencies within Science and Education and the different mission areas, as well as with our partners in the States. These efforts, together with good communication with Congress, should benefit agriculture in particular, and the general public impacted by the USDA in general. I am fully cognizant of the magnitude of that undertaking. But I will strive toward that goal. Time will be the judge of my success.

Senator Lugar's Questions

Question 1. There are many groups and organizations which would like to have input into the priority setting process of the science and education's agencies. How do you propose to provide an opportunity to utilize input from these sources?

Response. Ensuring that the USDA Research and Education agencies are focusing on the critical issues facing American agriculture is one of my highest priorities. There are several mechanisms in place that provide an opportunity for input into the priority process: i.e., congressionally authorized committees such as the Joint Council, Users Advisory Board, National Genetics Advisory Council and others. In addition, various commodity groups meet with the staffs and line managers of the agencies to discuss their research and education needs. I intend to have an "open door policy" with the user community so that I can listen and use their input to the priority setting process of this administration.

Question 2. The department is routinely asked to address the challenges facing agriculture by using a system approach wherein the financial and economic performance of the farm and ranch, the need to maintain the quality of the environment, and the safety and quality of the food and other products they produce are all considered simultaneously. How do you propose to manage the Science and Education agencies to achieve this systematic approach to solving the challenges facing agriculture today and tomorrow?

Response. As the question suggests, agricultural research in recent years has tended to be compartmentalized, addressing one question at a time. Of late, the need has been recognized to consider larger systems in which there are manifold interactions. The department's emphasis on agroecosystem management is an exam-

ple of that recognition.

In ARS, the research program is divided into six components; one of these is "integration of systems." Thus, ARS has long recognized the need for integration. ARS also has sponsored the extensive training for 18 scientists in systems engineering, to provide in-house capability in the formal techniques of systems analysis. Furthermore, ARS has redirected resources at several locations to initiate new research that stresses farming systems, in contrast to the components of those systems. To date, the integration of the social sciences with the biological and physical sciences has not been stressed adequately. Such cooperation would be highly productive.

SENATOR HELMS' QUESTIONS PRESENTED TO ROGER VIADERO WITH RESPONSES THERETO

Question 1. Will you devote any of your office's resources to facilitate the identification and/or removal of those employees who, either for moral or religious reasons, personally voice their opposition to proposed policies within the Department of Agriculture?

Response. No. The Office of Inspector General will not devote resources to facilitate the identification and/or removal of employees of the Department of Agriculture, who either for moral or religious reasons, personally voice their opposition to proposed policies within the Department of Agriculture. To do so might, under some circumstances, infringe upon individual rights covered by the Privacy Act. Determinations about whether employees should be removed for reasons other than waste, fraud or abuse, are within the province of the Office of Personnel, not the Office of Inspector General.

Question 2. How will your office respond to an employee who claims that he or she has been a victim of reprisal because he voiced his personal opposition to proposed policies within the Department of Agriculture?

Response. The Inspector General's Act sets out parameters and limitations on the powers and responsibilities of the Office of Inspector General. There are established grievance procedures within the department's personnel office and under laws administered by the Office of Personnel Management, and the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, and the Merit Systems Protection Board, which are charged with the responsibility for hearing personnel grievances. While the Office of Inspector General is responsible under the Inspector General's Act for reprisals against "whistle-blowers," the situation described in the question does not fit under that responsibility, and the Office of Inspector General, accordingly, would have no responsibility for the situation described in the question.

Directive. Please detail the Inspector General's responsibilities to an employee who believes he or she has been unfairly removed from their (sic) position.

Response. The Office of Inspector General has no responsibility to an employee who believes he or she has been unfairly removed from his or her position. This allegation raises issues affecting personnel procedures, which I would refer to the Personnel Officer or the Equal Employment Officer within USDA, or the Merit Systems Protection Board or the Office of Personnel Management, where there are established policies and procedures for the handling of such grievances.

If the allegations are egregious, the Inspector General may direct an audit be conducted to determine if management has abused any personnel laws in the removal

of the employee.

Question 3. As you are well aware, fraud within USDA's nutrition programs has resulted in the waste of an enormous amount of the taxpayers' money. How will your office combat the abuse of programs such as the Food Stamp Program and WIC by employees within the Department of Agriculture?

Response. Allegations of fraud within the department's nutrition programs raise issues within the purview of the Office of Inspector General. Allegations of fraud within nutrition programs would be handled in the same manner as any other allegation of fraud within the programs of USDA. They would be thoroughly, promptly and impartially investigated, and those who are found to be in violation of law would be appropriately referred for vigorous prosecution.



July 29, 1994

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy Chairman Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry United States Senate Washington, DC 20510-6000

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Roger C. Viadero, who has been nominated by President Clinton to serve as Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture.

We have reviewed the report and have obtained advice from the Department of Agriculture concerning any possible conflict in light of the Department's functions and the nominee's proposed duties.

Based thereon, we believe that Mr. Viadero is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Polls

Director

Enclosure

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Executive Branch PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

Form Approved OMB No. 3209 0001

Schedule C. Part I (Liabilities). The unlendar year and the current calendar. Arrangements) Show any agreements or arrangements as of the date of covered by your previous filing and ends at the date of termination. Part Il calendar year and the current calendar ussets as of any date you choose that is Schedule A. The reporting period for veur up to any date you choose that is within 31 days of the date of filing Schedule C, Part II (Agreements or Schedule D-The reporting period is is granted, more than 30 days after the last day of the filing extension period Cundidutes for President and Vice the preceding two calendar years and required to be filed, or, if an extension Incumbents: The reporting period is Any individual who is required to file this report and does so more than fermination Filers: The reporting period begins at the end of the period include the filing year up to the date you file. Part II of Schedule D is not neume (BLOCK C) is the preceding the current calendar year up to the year up to the date of filing Value 30 days after the date the report is the preceding calendar year except Part II of Schedule C and Part I af within 31 days of the date of filing eporting period is the preceding Fee for Late Filing Reporting Periods Schedule D where you must also Nominees, New Entrants and of Schedule D is not applicable. Schedule B.-Not applicable. shall be subject to a \$200 fee. Agency Use Unity 27 1994 OCE Use Only date of filing ₹ applicable. Termination Date (1/ Appli sable) (Month, Day, Year) ICheck box if minimum - ne continued no the repert idea 202/ 324-3957 Department of Agriculture 55-5C-L Telephone No. (Include Area Code) Di. You Intend to Create a Qualified Diversified Trust? Date (Month, Ilay, Year) Date (Month, Ibo), Year) Duty (Month, 1ks), Year) 7/27/94 Date (Month, Dov. Year 1/44/ Termination Filer Ę Propertion Agency (If Applicable) - Unit Chief, FBI First Name and Middle Initial Date of Appointment, Candidacy, Election or Nomination (Month, Day, Year) Roger C. 10th & Pennsylvania Ave Jashington, D.C. 20535 Agriculture, Nutrition&Forestry Supervisory Special Agent ne of Dengmeed Agency Lithus Official/Nevaring Official New Entrant, Nomine Name of Congressional Committee Considering Nomes Address (Number, Street, City, State, and ZIP Code) 17/CS Inspector General FBIHO GR-204 Title of the store(s) and third(s) Held laubividal garanters ladividual 000 Report 1993-1994 Calendar Year Covered by amments of Reviewing Officials III additional space is required, use the Kuly Viadero Orho fille of frestore Aut Name Reporting Individual's Name I CERTIFY that the statements I have made on this form and all often less schooling and rue, complete and currect to the larst of my nawledge and belief Office of Government Ethics The information contained in this report discloses no conflict of interest under apply able laws and regulations ocation of Present Office Positivate) Hild with the Federal Government During the Proceding 12 Months (If Not Same as Above) Presidential Nominees Subject to Position for Which Filing Agency 13hes Official's Opinion (If denined by agency) Use Only Certification Other Review Reporting Status Appropriate or forwarding address)

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION (PUBLIC)

1. Full name (include any former names used).

Roger Charles Viadero

Address: List current place of residence and office address(es).

List all office and home telephone numbers where you may be reached.

Residence: 2 Falcon Court

Stafford, VA 22554 (703) 659-2879

Work: FBIHQ

Audit Unit GR-204

10th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20535

3. Date and place of birth.

May 1, 1948 New York, New York

4. <u>Marital Status</u> (include maiden name of wife or husband's name). List spouse's occupation, employer's name and business address(es).

Thea Viadero, nee: Komora Homemaker

5. Education: List each college and graduate or professional school you have attended, including dates of attendance, degrees received, and dates degrees were granted.

College: Pace University

861 Bedford Road

Pleasantville, New York 10570

Dates: 1/74 - 6/78

Degree: Bachelor of Business Administration

Major: Public Accounting

Graduate: Lubin Graduate School of Business

Pace University
1 Martine Avenue

White Plains, New York 10606

Dates: 9/78 - 6/83

Degree: Master of Business Administration

Major: Managerial Accounting

6. Employment Record: List (by year) all business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions and organizations, nonprofit or otherwise, including farms, with which you were connected as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college; include a title and brief job description.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

January 1979 - present

Chief, Audit Unit, Inspection Division January 1992 - present

As Chief of the Audit Unit, I supervise forty-two people, including seven Supervisory Special Agents. I have administrative and operational responsibility for all financial reviews within the FBI. This includes scheduling, conducting, and reporting audits to FBI executive management and other concerned organizations.

My unit is responsible for:

- Performing all financial and associated compliance reviews of FBI operations;
- Performing financial investigations for the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR);
- Presenting the results of OPR investigations to the Department of Justice OPR, and if warranted, to the United States Attorney for prosecution;
- Directing system reviews of all FBI automated data processing (ADP) procedures in conformance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (The Yellow Book);
- Auditing the FBI's General Ledger in accordance with the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990;
- Developing and maintaining liaison with the following agencies:

DOJ Office of the Inspector General; DOJ Office of Professional Responsibility; General Accounting Office; Office of Management and Budget, and United States Attorney's Office

- Providing management advisory assistance to all FBI divisions, and
- Providing training to FBI undercover agents on requirements of undercover operations.

Consultant

- Mollen Commission dealing with police corruption, New York
 City, New York
- The Hoffberger Center for Professional Ethics, Baltimore, Maryland

Supervisory Special Agent, Management Science Unit, FBI Academy November 1983 - December 1991

Assistant Professor, University of Virginia - FBI National Academy courses at the undergraduate and graduate level in:

- Management Planning and Budgets
- · Achieving Excellence Through Management Control
- Futuristics
- · Forecasting Techniques For The Law Enforcement Manager
- · The Strategic Budgeting Orientation Seminar

Program Manager for all FBI Support Supervisors (1984-1991):

Developed the personnel management program from first line supervisor through executive level, including all management training as part of the Comprehensive Bureau Management Training Program.

Program Manager, National Budgeting Conference for the Major City Chief's Association (MCCA), of the International Association Of Chief's of Police (1990-1991):

Managed and implemented the program, limited to members representing the forty-five largest city police departments in America.

Editor, Law Enforcement Budgeting Advisory Group (1990-1991):

Edited and commented on current budgetary issues as they relate to law enforcement. At present this is a semi-annual publication with approximately 12,000 circulation.

Program Manager, Boy Scouts of America, Law Enforcement Explorers Leadership Academy (1984-1990):

Responsible for the curriculum presented and logistical support for this two week program.

Faculty Exchange, Australian Federal Police, Canberra, Australia (1989).

Management Consultant - Assisted these agencies to design and implement automated budgeting processes, programs for internal audit and audit control procedures, reporting systems, and development of Inspection Staffs.

- United States Capitol Police, Washington, D.C.
- Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C.
- Police Department, Chicago, Illinois
- Police Department, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Police Department, Richmond, Virginia Police Department, Baltimore, Maryland

- Police Department, Houston, Texas

Special Agent, New York Division January 1979 - November 1983

Chief Internal Auditor - Supervised a staff of four professional (three support, 1 agent) auditors, charged with reviewing of FBI operations at New York, to include financial and compliance reviews, and administrative (personnel) inquiries with results forwarded to the Assistant Director of New York and Inspection Division.

Arson-For-Profit Coordinator - Established the arson-for-profit investigative techniques for this violation, and served as the FBI's representative with the Joint Arson-For-Profit Task Force, U. S. Department Of Justice.

 Military Service: Have you had any military service? If so, give particulars, including the dates, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number and type of discharge received.

12/09/66 - Present, U. S. Army Reserve, Chief Warrant Officer, #050406809, presently still a member of reserve components.

8. Government Service: State (chronologically) your government service or public offices you have held, including the terms of service grade levels and whether such positions were elected or appointed.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

January 1979 - Present

Special Agent	1/79-10/83	GS 10-13
Supervisory Special Agent	11/83-12/92	GM 14
Unit Chief	1/92-present	GM 15

 Honors and Awards: List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, and honorary society memberships that you received and believe would be of interest to the Committee.

Awards:

FBI Director's Incentive Award (1993)
Certificate of Appreciation, City of Baltimore, Internal
Auditing (1988)
Certificate of Appreciation, United States Congress, United
States Capitol Police (1987)
Speakers Award, National Association of Police Planners (1987)
Honorary Deputy Chief, New York City Fire Department, New York,
New York (1982)
Certificate of Appreciation, New York City Fire Department,
Arson-For-Profit, New York, New York (1981)

 Other Memberships: List all organizations to which you belong, excluding religious organizations.

Department of Justice Association of Hispanic Employees for Advancement and Development Free and Accepted Masons American Institute Of Certified Public Accountants

11. <u>Published Writings</u>: List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, or other published materials (including published speeches) you have written. Please include on this list published materials on which you are listed as the principal editor. It would be helpful to the Committee if you could provide one copy of all published material that may not be readily available. Also, to the maximum extent practicable, please supply a copy of all unpublished speeches you made during the past five years on issues involving agriculture, nutrition, forestry or commodity futures policy or related matters.

Publications:

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE THROUGH THE INSPECTION PROCESS, SELECTED READINGS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEGRITY, FBI, Washington, D.C., 1993

<u>BUDGETING IN HARD TIMES</u> (video), Law Enforcement Training Network, Dallas, Texas, September, 1992

LAW ENFORCEMENT BUDGETING ADVISORY GROUP, FBI, Washington, D.C., Volume I, Number 1, June, 1991; and Volume I, Number 2, December, 1991

WAYS THAT MOTIVATE YOUR PEOPLE, Management Quarterly, FBI, Washington, D.C., July, 1991

<u>BUDGETING FOR TODAY'S MANAGER</u> (video), Law Enforcement Training Network, Dallas, Texas, January, 1990

INTERNAL AUDITING: AN ACTION PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE, Law Enforcement Bulletin, FBI, Washington D. C., May, 1988

INTERNAL AUDITING: THE INSPECTIONS FUNCTION (publication),
FBI, Washington, D.C., 1987

BUDGETING: A MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW (publication), FBI,
Washington, D.C., 1985

12. <u>Health</u>: What is the present state of your health? Excellent

FINANCIAL DATA AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST (PUBLIC)

1. Have you severed all connections with your immediate past private sector employers, business firms, associations, and/or organizations?

Yes

 List sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock options, incompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients, or customers.

None

3. Do you, or does any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, own or operate a farm or ranch? (If yes, please give a brief description including location, size and type of operation.)

No

4. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, ever participated in Federal commodity price support programs? (If yes, provide all details including amounts of direct government payments and loans received or forfeited by crop and farm, etc. during the past five years.)

No

5. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, ever received a direct or guaranteed loan from or cosigned a note to the Farmers Home Administration? (If yes, give details of any such loan activity during the past five years.)

No

6. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, ever received payments for crop losses from the Federal Crop Insurance program? (If yes, give details.)

No

7. If confirmed, do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment or engage in any business or vocation, with or without compensation, during your service with the government? (If so, explain.)

No

8. Do you have any plans to resume employment, affiliation, or practice with your previous employers, business firms, associations, or organizations after completing government service? (If yes, give details.)

No

9. Has anyone made a commitment to employ you or retain your services in any capacity after you leave government service? (If yes, please specify.)

No

10. Identify all investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated.

None

11. Have you ever received a government guaranteed student loan? If so, has it been repaid?

No

12. If confirmed, explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including any that may be disclosed by your responses to the above items.

Although I can foresee no conflicts of interest arising, if one does arise I will seek advise from the USDA General Counsel.



August 2, 1994

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy Chairman Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

. In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Jose M. Amador, who has been nominated by President Clinton to the position of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Science and Education.

We have reviewed the report and have obtained advice from the Department of Agriculture concerning any possible conflict in light of the Department's functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is a letter from Dr. Amador, dated July 27, 1994, which discusses his ethics agreements with respect to recusals, resignations and certain other matters.

Based thereon, we believe that ${\tt Dr.\ Amador}$ is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Potts

Director

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

JUL 27 1994

Honorable Stephen D. Potts Director Office of Government Ethics Suite 500 1201 New York Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Potts:

The purpose of this letter is to explain the steps which I intend to take in order to assure that no conflict of interest or appearance thereof will arise between my personal financial interests and the duties I will perform if confirmed to serve as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Science and Education.

I have been employed since 1965 by Texas A&M University (Texas A&M), and have served since 1991 as Director of the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center located in Weslaco, Texas. I do not intend to sever my relationship with Texas A&M, but expect instead to take a leave of absence from that institution in order to serve in the Assistant Secretary position.

As Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Science and Education, I would have broad responsibility for all of USDA's research and extension activities. Those include research and cooperative extension programs undertaken with all of the land grant universities, including Texas A&M. In order to assure that no conflict of interest will arise in my performance of duties as an Assistant Secretary, on the basis of my continuing financial relationship with Texas A&M, I hereby pledge to recuse myself from participation in any matters now pending within the Department of Agriculture, or which may arise during my tenure as an official of the Department, involving or directly affecting Texas A&M. I pledge as well to recuse myself from participation in any other matters which may arise within the Department, during my tenure as an official of USDA, which may have a direct and predictable effect on any of my personal financial interests.

There is one additional issue which needs addressing. I am presently serving as a member of the boards of directors of a number of organizations, including the Rio Grande Valley Chamber of Commerce; the Agronomy Society's Plant Pathology

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Board; and the Texas Vegetable Association. I am also serving currently as a member of the Una Vida Mejor Task Force, which oversees activities conducted under a grant to Texas A&M from the Kellogg Foundation. I hereby pledge to resign from these positions upon being confirmed to serve as an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

I believe that the steps which I have agreed to take, as outlined above, will serve to assure that no conflict of interest or appearance thereof will arise between my personal financial interests and the duties I will perform if confirmed to serve as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Science and Education.

oose M. Amador

Sincerely,

Assistant Secretary-Designate

Science and Education

SP 278 (lev. 1/911) GCFR Dark 2634

Executive Branch PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

Lucia Approved OMB No. 3209 com

TILKETH THERETON nds at the date of termination. Part II Schedule C, Part I (Linbilities): The is granted, more than 30 days after the Nontinees, New Entrants and Candidates for President and Vice Schedule A.-The reporting period for calendar year and the current calendur issets us of any date you choose that is inlending year and the current calendar Arrangements). Show any agreements on arrangements as of the date of the preceding two calendar years and required to be filled, or, if an extension Schodule C, Part II (Agreements or Schedule D. The reporting period is Incumbents The reporting period is rear up to may date you choose that is file this report and does so more than Any individual who is required to lust day of the filing extension period Termination Filers: The reporting period begins at the end of the period year up to the date of filing Value include the filling year up to the date you file. Part II of Schedule D is not ncome (BLOCK C) is the preceding 30 days after the date the report is overed by your previous filing and the current calendar year up to the date of filing the procedurg calendar year except Part II of Schedule C and Part I of within 31 days of the date of filing within 31 days of the date of filing Reporting Periods eporting period is the preceding Fee for Late Filing Schedule D where you must also of Schedule D is not applicable. Schedule B.-Not applicable shall be subject to a \$200 fee. Agency Unit Only 27 1994 OGE Use Only Ħ 'resident: applicable. Iormonton Date (If Apple cable) (Month, Ivay, Year) (che sale) March 12, 1994 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (210) 968-5585 Tetaphone No Hacture Ann Code) You Intend to Create a Qualified Diversified Trust Date (Month, Day, Year) Dute (Minith, No., Year) Dute (Manth, Day, Year) Pate (Month, Day, Yenr) 1/27/44 × partment or Agency (If Applicable) hirst Name and Middle Initial Jate of Appointment, Candalary, Election, ir Nomination (Month, Day, Year) Jose M. Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry agnature of the agnuted Agency Jidone Official/Reviewing Official Assistant Secretary for New Entrant, Numinee Science and Education 2415 E. Hwy 83 Weslaco, Texas 78596 ildress (Number, News) City, State, and ZIP Code) beamstee Considering N minents of Beviewing Coffernity If odditional space is explined use the reverse side of thu she i CARO 1993-1994 Saniffure of Other Reviews Celendar Year Covered by Natural Cargor manual C uller Amador the of Posttooned the of Dvotom I CHICLEY that the marments I have enade Jacombent on this form and all attacks of which the var-tion complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belod Reporting Individual's Name Office of Coverhinent Ethics ocation of Present Office Posterical Held with the Legicral Government During the December 12 Months (If Not Some in Above) The information continued in this report discloses no confine of instances in under applicable laws and regulations. Presidential Numinees Subject to Position for Which Filing Agency filling Official's Opinion Previous Laboratory In 1991 If describing agencyl Use Only Continuition of Check Appropriate Other Beview Senate Confirmation Reporting Status or forwarding solices.)

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Una Vida Mejor Task Force Texas A&M University	rce	University task force	Member	1992	present
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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION (PUBLIC)

1. Full name (include any former names used).

Jose Manuel Amador

Address: List current place of residence and office address(es). List all office and home telephone numbers where you may be reached.

Home:

1400 Yucca, McAllen, Texas 78504 2415 E. Highway 83, Weslaco, Texas 78596 Office: Office: USDA, Administration Building, Room 217-W Washington, D.C.

Date and place of birth. 3.

March 3, 1938. Matanzas, Cuba.

Status (include maiden name of wife or husband's name). List spouse's occupation, employer's name and business address(es).

Married to Silvia G. Amador (formerly Silvia M. Garcia). Self employed as Broker-Owner of Texan Realty, 325 Nolana, McAllen, Texas. 78501

List each college and graduate or professional school Education: you have attended, including dates of attendance, degrees received, and dates degrees were granted.

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La. 1957-1965. Bachelor of Science (1960), Master of Science (1962) and Philosophy Doctor (1965) in Agronomy, Plant Breeding and Plant Pathology, respectively.

<u>Employment Record</u>: List (by year) all business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions and organizations, nonprofit or 6. otherwise, including farms, with which you were connected as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college; include a title and brief job description.

1965 to Present: Texas A&M University System. From 1965 to 1991 I served as Extension Plant Pathologist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, serving the South Texas area. developed and maintained an informal educational program in plant disease control for farmers, homeowners, agricultural consultants, and the public in general.

From 1991 to the present, I served as Center Director of the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Weslaco, Texas. USDA-ARS is collocated at the Center, as well as two other entities of the Texas A&M System. As Center Director, I provided leadership to the scientists working in the Center in research, extension and education programs.

 Military Service: Have you had any military service? If so, give particulars, including the dates, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number and type of discharge received.

No.

 Government Service: State (chronologically) your government service or public offices you have held, including the terms of service grade levels and whether such positions were elected or appointed.

Since my appointment in 1965 as Extension Plant Pathologist, and later in 1991 as Director of the Weslaco Center, I maintained a joint appointment between the State of Texas and the United States Department of Agricultural, serving as mentioned in section 6.

9. <u>Honors and Awards</u>: List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, and honorary society memberships that you received and believe would be of interest to the Committee.

Elected to Gamma Sigma Delta (Honor Society for Agriculture) Elected to Epsilon Sigma Phi (Honor Society for Extension) Recipient of Texas Superior Service Award for 1980, Texas Agricultural Extension Service

Recipient of the Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award, Texas A&M University Association of Former Students, 1985
Recipient of the Excellence in Extension Award from the American Phytopathological Society, 1990
Recipient of the Citation of Excellence, District 12 County

Recipient of the Citation of Excellence, District 12 County Agricultural Agents, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, 1990 Named Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society, 1992 Recipient of Outstanding Service of Agriculture Award, Hidalgo County Farm Bureau, 1993

Recipient of the First Texas Agri-Women "Friend of Agriculture Award" for outstanding support and inspiration to Texas Agri-Women, 1994

Received House Congratulatory Motion No. 620 from The State of Texas House of Representatives for excellent work done as Center Director of the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center at Weslaco, March of 1994 Other Memberships: List all organizations to which you belong, excluding religious organizations.

American Phytopathological Society
Board of Directors, Texas Vegetable Association
Board of Directors, Office of International Programs, American
Phytopathological Society
Minority Committee (Ad Hoc), American Phytopathological Society
Plant Pathology Sub-Board, American Registry of Certified
Professionals in Agronomy, Crops and Soils
Circulo Cubano Americano del Valle del Rio Grande
Tower Club

11. <u>Published Writings</u>: List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, or other published materials (including published speeches) you have written. Please include on this list published materials on which you are listed as the principal editor. It would be helpful to the Committee if you could provide one copy of all published material that may not be readily available. Also, to the maximum extent practicable, please supply a copy of all unpublished speeches you made during the past five years on <u>issues involving</u> agriculture, nutrition, forestry or commodity futures policy or related matters.

Please, see attachment "PUBLICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ARTICLES" for list of publications. As Extension Plant Pathologist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service for 26 years and as Center Director for the last 4 years, I have made numerous presentations and speeches on subject matter and other issues relating to agriculture. These presentations were usually extemporaneous, some times with few notes or no notes at all. I also have made many presentations to youth organizations, civic clubs, and other organizations on citizenship. These were also made with few notes.

12. Health: What is the present state of your health?

Physical and stress tests conducted recently show my health to be good. I take medication daily for hypertension. I am not aware of any other health problem.

FINANCIAL DATA AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST (PUBLIC)

 Have you severed all connections with your immediate past private sector employers, business firms, associations, and/or organizations?

Yes.

(If appointed to the position, the Texas A&M University System has agreed to grant me a leave of absence for the duration of my service at USDA, with no commitment in their part to salary or location upon returning to Texas A&M.)

 List sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock options, incompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients, or customers.

None.

 Do you, or does any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, own or operate a farm or ranch? (If yes, please give a brief description including location, size and type of operation.)

No.

4. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, ever participated in Federal commodity price support programs? (If yes, provide all details including amounts of direct government payments and loans received or forfeited by crop and farm, etc. during the past five years.)

No.

5. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, ever received a direct or guaranteed loan from or cosigned a note to the Farmers Home Administration? (If yes, give details of any such loan activity during the past five years.)

No.

6. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, ever received payments for crop losses from the Federal Crop Insurance program? (If yes, give details.)

No.

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7. If confirmed, do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment or engage in any business or vocation, with or without compensation, during your service with the government? (If so, explain.)

No.

 Do you have any plans to resume employment, affiliation, or practice with your previous employers, business firms, associations, or organizations after completing government service? (If yes, give details.)

Yes. I would like to return to the Texas A&M University System to serve in any capacity I may be needed.

 Has anyone made a commitment to employ you or retain your services in any capacity after you leave government service? (If yes, please specify.)

If confirmed, Texas A&M University System has agreed to grant me leave of absence status for the duration of my service in Washington. The System has agreed to employ me again, if I so desire, with no guarantee of salary or locale.

10. Identify all investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated.

None.

11. Have you ever received a government guaranteed student loan? If so, has it been repaid?

Yes. I repaid it.

12. If confirmed, explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including any that may be disclosed by your responses to the above items.

I have agreed to recuse myself of making decisions involving the Texas A&M University System that could be interpreted as possible conflict of interest with my former employer.

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